



Iran War Update: August 22–24, 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 24 at 11:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 424** (6 between August 12–14)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$93.79 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$92.74–94.43)

1. Overview

- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [wrote](#) in a *Financial Times* op-ed on August 24 that “At dawn begins an economic D-Day — the single greatest financial offensive ever marshalled against an adversary.” He [told](#) CNBC that day the United States plans to “collapse” the Iranian regime with “the toughest sanctions in history.”
 - » Secretary Bessent is slated to [discuss](#) the plan on August 24 at 1:00 pm EST. Reuters reported that the Treasury Department plans to vastly expand secondary sanctions against Iran to penalize any country doing business with it.
 - » Iran’s currency, the rial, reached a record low on August 24, [declining](#) to approximately 2.02 million to the U.S. dollar. President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that day, “Iran is completely collapsing.”
- On August 24, *The New York Post* [reported](#) that Iranian media recently aired a video purporting to show the daily movements of President Trump’s son, Barron, and threatening his life.
 - » Reportedly, the video clip, entitled “where to kill Barron Trump,” claims Barron Trump “is fully monitored.” The *Post* claimed, citing other outlets, that the Iranian regime has placed a \$10 million bounty on Barron Trump.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- According to Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi [will travel](#) to Tehran on August 25 to continue Iranian-Omani negotiations over the Strait of Hormuz.
- On August 24, Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir [traveled](#) to Tehran to meet with Iranian officials as “part of Pakistan’s efforts to promote regional peace and stability.”

- » According to a Reuters report citing three Pakistani sources, President Trump called Munir before his trip.
- » While details of the phone conversation remain unknown, Munir is expected to address several security topics with Iranian leaders, including tensions with the United States, the ongoing Houthi threat posed to Saudi Arabia, and the new Turkish-Saudi-Pakistani mutual defense agreement.
- On August 23, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [stated](#) that continuing to pursue the U.S.-Iran MOU was the best path forward for Iran, particularly regarding the country's economic interests, saying that "There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," and that "The supreme leader sets the policies, and we will follow that path."
 - » He added "Capital and money are extremely sensitive to risk," and that "We have to remove this risk from the country."
- During an August 21 press gaggle, President Trump [said](#) that Iran's leaders "would love to make a deal, but they're not ready to make the right deal, in my opinion."

Syria

- On August 23, Syrian state media [reported](#) that Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani and Mossad Director Roman Gofman met for U.S.-mediated talks in Jordan aimed at de-escalating tension following Israel's August 18 strike on Abu al-Duhur Military Airport.
 - » According to Syrian state media, the talks focused on establishing mechanisms to halt Israeli strikes and military operations in southern Syria.
- On August 23, Israel and Turkey were [reported](#) to have established a covert backchannel aimed at preventing friction over Syria, according to an Israeli defense official cited by Israel's Kan public broadcaster.
- On August 23, Syrian Foreign Minister Shaibani [said](#) in an interview with Reuters that negotiations with Israel over a security agreement had been frozen since the start of the Iran war and that direct contacts were cut following Israel's August 18 strike, but said he expected negotiations to resume soon.
- On August 22, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar [told](#) Israel's *Channel 12* that Israel had "no interest in escalation with Turkey," but would "not accept the establishment of Turkish bases in Syria."

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

- On August 21, Reuters reported that two U.S. Air Force KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft departed Bulgaria's Bezmer Air Base nearly a month after their deployment prompted Iranian criticism. Bulgaria—a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—said the aircraft only conducted training missions over allied countries.

Iran

- On August 24, the United States [canceled](#) a joint amphibious landing exercise with South Korea scheduled for September, citing constraints on U.S. force availability due to the war with Iran.
 - » President Trump previously [referred](#) to joint U.S.-South Korean exercises as "inappropriate and hostile" to North Korea.

Strait of Hormuz

- On August 23, President Trump again [posted](#) an image on Truth Social depicting the Strait of Hormuz as a "NEW US territory," after first sharing the image on August 18.

- » In separate remarks on August 21, President Trump said, “We have total control of that entire region having to do with the Strait of Hormuz, and that means well into it, the land areas.”

Syria

- On August 22, Israel [conducted](#) a drone strike against a vehicle in Beit Jinn, southwestern Syria—approximately six miles from the Israeli border—that [injured](#) one person.
 - » Syria’s Foreign Ministry [condemned](#) the strike as a “flagrant violation” of Syrian sovereignty and a “blatant breach of international law.”
- On August 22, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [said](#) Israel had directly warned the Syrian government “at the highest levels” against allowing a Turkish military presence at Abu al-Duhur Military Airport before Israel struck the base on August 18.
 - » Katz said Israel also [shared](#) intelligence reporting with the United States on Turkey’s alleged plans to establish an air defense system at the airbase. Israel authorized the strike after its warning to Damascus “went unanswered.”

Yemen

- On August 23, Yemen’s internationally recognized government [said](#) its forces conducted drone strikes against Iran-backed Houthi “gatherings, movements, and barracks” across several fronts.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On August 23, Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) spokesperson Hossein Mohebbi [stated that](#) “IRGC tracking is not currently conducted through satellites they recognize. It is carried out through another method that they may not yet be able to detect.”
- On August 22, Iranian Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akraminia [said](#) Iran was shifting its military doctrine from defensive to offensive, including allowing preemptive strikes and retaliation exceeding the scale of an initial attack.
 - » Akraminia said Iran had used pauses in fighting to rebuild and upgrade damaged military systems, introduce new equipment, and increase combat readiness.

Lebanon

- On August 23, Israel’s *Channel 12*, citing an Israeli security official, [reported](#) that the IRGC Quds Force has repeatedly attempted to help smuggle weapons to Hezbollah fighters through routes in Syria during the ongoing ceasefire.

Maritime

- On August 24, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [announced](#) that an unknown projectile attacked a tanker and sparked a fire on the ship’s deck in the Red Sea about 63 nautical miles off the Saudi port city of Yanbu.
 - » Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree later [posted](#) on Telegram, claiming the group struck a vessel near Yanbu, but Saudi Arabia has yet to confirm the incident.
- On August 22, *The New York Post* [reported](#) that Iranian projectiles attacked five vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz last week.

Outside the Middle East

- On August 23, *The Telegraph* [reported](#) that hackers linked to Iran had shut down a small British power plant for four days in July, reportedly marking the first successful Iranian-linked cyberattack against critical infrastructure in the United Kingdom. British authorities said the incident did not threaten the country’s power grid.

5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On August 24, the Iranian rial's value [sank](#) to a historic low, with 2.027 million rials equaling one U.S. dollar.
- On August 23, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad [announced](#) the discovery of more than 7.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Iran's Fars province, of which approximately 5.7 trillion cubic feet is recoverable.
 - » Paknejad said the discovery also included gas condensates worth "tens of billions of dollars" and that Iran planned to develop the resources "as soon as possible."
- On August 23, Iran's Economic Security Police Chief Hossein Rahimi [announced](#) that throughout the war, Iranian authorities confiscated approximately 997 Starlink devices and equipment, seized 15 vehicles transporting the technology, and arrested 163 linked to Starlink usage.
- On August 23, Iran's Supreme National Security Council head Mohsen Rezaei [claimed](#) that Iran had sold 70 million barrels of oil over the previous one to two months despite the U.S. naval blockade, generating billions of dollars and circumventing U.S. sanctions.
 - » Rezaei also threatened countries participating in the U.S. "economic war" against Iran, saying Tehran would first demand they distance themselves from Washington and, if they refused, "we will strike the interests of the country."

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

- On August 24, Iranian Army Commander Amir Hatami [warned](#) of continued military action against its adversaries, threatening that "We will fight for 10 generations, 20 generations," and adding, "The only way is to use the language of force to make the enemy understand that it cannot do whatever it wants."
- On August 24, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei [stated](#) that "Countries have no reason to be concerned about the Islamic Republic unless they have placed their territory and facilities at the disposal of the United States," justifying strikes on U.S. allies.
 - » He also rejected claims insisting that oil continued to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, calling the reports "media and propaganda warfare."
 - » Additionally, Baghaei, referring to the U.S. naval blockade as "an act of aggression," [claimed](#) that Iran "neither started this war nor sought it, and we used every available means to prevent it," and added that Tehran would not end the war by caving to "excessive" U.S. demands.
- On August 24, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi [addressed](#) the United States on X, writing "Your narrative doesn't add up: you say Iran's military capability has been 'dismantled, 100% of its military factories 'destroyed,' and its nuclear program 'buried'; but for this very Iran, the 'largest financial assault in history' and the mobilization of 'all U.S. institutions and authorities' have been necessary! Is this a victory or an admission of America's failure!?"
- On August 24, despite his calls for diplomacy, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [accused](#) the United States and Israel of interfering with Iran's domestic issues, insisting that "The Iranian people are too aware to be deceived by cunning, criminal and exploitative enemies."
- On August 23, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [addressed](#) the threat of additional U.S. sanctions against Iran, stating "The fact that they (US leaders) have moved on from military operations... to bring up the same old plans shows that they are desperate."

- » He added that “We have never been afraid. All of their actions—whether blockades or other military moves they have made—have failed, and this new issue of theirs will fail as well.”
- On August 23, Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei [wrote](#) on X that “If the economic war continues, not a single drop of oil will be exported, neither through the Strait of Hormuz nor from anywhere in the Persian Gulf,” adding, “Iran will regard any country’s participation in or support for America’s economic war against the Iranian people as an act of war.”
- On August 23, Secretary Rezaei [pondered](#) several questions during an interview broadcast by Tehran’s state television, asking “The whole world is saying, ‘Wait a minute. So the NPT has no effect?’” and “When America is waging such a war, people naturally ask: Why shouldn’t we pursue nuclear weapons ourselves?”
 - » He also stated, “The level of safeguards and inspections carried out in Iran over the past two decades has been unprecedented anywhere else in the world,” and asked, “Why shouldn’t we develop a nuclear weapon so that nobody can attack us?”
- On August 22, Iran’s Armed Forces Commander of the Committee for the Search for Missing Persons [urged](#) Qatari officials to transfer Iranian pilots, who Iran claims are being held by Qatar in “poor physical condition,” to a land hospital for treatment.
 - » Qatari authorities denied Iran’s accusations that the country is holding the downed pilots and claimed that past attempts to contact them have not been successful.
- On August 22, the Houthis [criticized](#) recent U.S. sanctions targeting Hezbollah, referring to the actions as “active participation in Israeli warcrimes” and stating that “The authorities in Lebanon must study history carefully, for standing with the enemy will inevitably lead to loss.”

7. International Response

- On August 22, *Bloomberg* [reported](#) that employees for Rosatom, the Moscow-owned nuclear company, are gradually returning to work at Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant after the organization evacuated them during the war.
- On August 21, a U.S. Air Force spokesperson [stated](#) that “Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe hosted a meeting of interested Allies at the chief of defence level on Wednesday, 19 Aug 26, in order to facilitate their possible contributions to support freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz,” adding that “To be clear, this is not a NATO mission. But given NATO’s unique strengths in its ability to bring together Allies and understand the capabilities they bring to bear, it makes sense for NATO to facilitate in this way.”

8. JINSA Resources

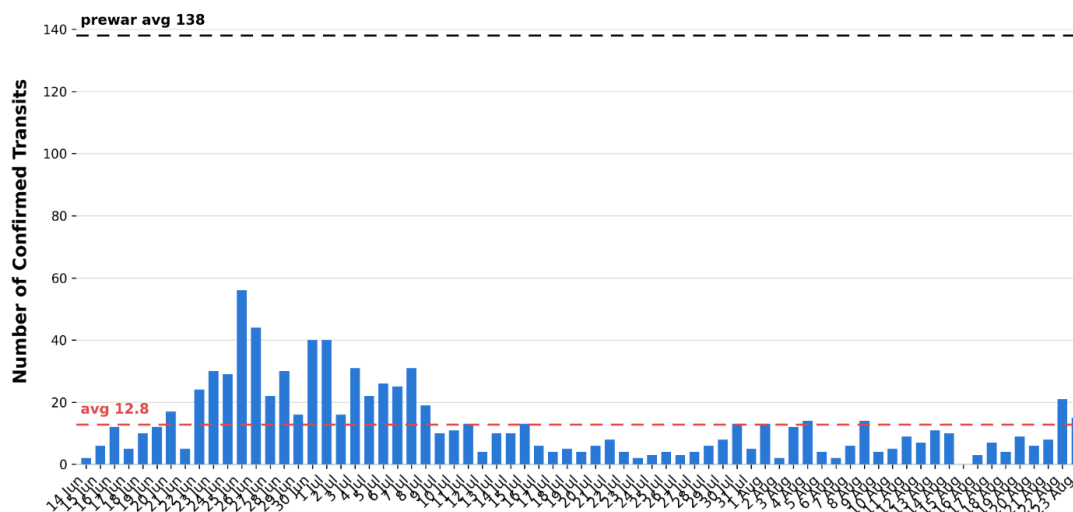
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- Giran Ozcan, [The Iran War Through the Kurdish Lens](#), July 24, 2026

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- 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.