



Iran War Update: August 27–28, 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 28 at 12:00 pm ET.

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

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$89.02 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$88.82–90.19)

1. Overview

- On August 28, President Donald Trump [reposted](#) a previous Truth Social post from April 29, with an AI-generated image depicting explosions with the caption “NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!”
- On August 27, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [stated](#) in a video recording, “We have successfully cleared sea mines in the strait’s international shipping lanes that were laid months ago by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Internationally recognized transit routes in the strait are free of Iranian sea mines.”
- In an interview with *Axios* on August 27, President Trump [remarked](#), describing the Strait of Hormuz, “That sucker is open. The Iranian response is very mild. They don’t want us to go back at them. That’s the whole ball game. The rest doesn’t matter.”
- On August 27, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social, discussing a Fox News report, that “I don’t want to meet [with the Iranians], they do. In fact, they are begging to make a deal.”
- Earlier on August 27, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social, “Iran Is a Failing Nation!”
- On August 27, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani [traveled](#) to Tehran to meet with Iranian leaders in an effort to resume diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran.
- On August 27, the Associated Press [reported](#) that stockpiles of U.S. advanced missile interceptors in Europe are facing a “beyond critical” shortfall in large part due to the war in Iran, citing an American defense official in Europe and an official from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- On August 26, Iranian Army Spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia [declared](#) that the country has rebuilt all of the military’s weapons systems, including those damaged by the United States and Israel during the war.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

- On August 26, *Politico* [reported](#) that a growing bipartisan group of lawmakers was pushing the Treasury Department to sanction Chinese financial institutions for helping sustain Iran's economy.
 - » Chinese banks were omitted from the most recent wave of U.S. sanctions, although China- and Hong Kong-based companies involved in illicit Iranian oil transfers and Iran's missile technology program were targeted.

Iran

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [posted](#) on August 28 that he had "creative discussions" with his Qatari counterpart. He wrote, "Putting diplomacy back on track isn't impossible. It hinges on U.S. understanding of one simple fact: pressure doesn't work."
 - » Araghchi added, "The U.S. should build trust, speak respectfully, acknowledge our rights, and uphold commitments."
- On August 27, a senior mediating diplomat [informed](#) *The Times of Israel* that President Trump does not seek to revive the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the United States and Iran signed in June and instead intends to continue applying heavy economic pressure on Tehran.
- On August 27, Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, [told](#) Lebanon's Al Manar TV that Iran was drafting a list of conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which would include an end to the regional war.
- On August 27, Secretary Rezaei [said](#) Iran had reached an agreement with Oman on a shipping corridor through the Strait divided between Omani and Iranian waters. Ships would be allowed to use a designated central channel if the United States agreed to Iran's conditions.
- On August 27, White House Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly [stated](#) that there are no ongoing negotiations or discussions with Iran and none are scheduled.

Lebanon

- On August 27, Lebanese media [reported](#) that the Trump administration is permitting U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michael Issa to meet with Hezbollah leaders and hold talks aimed at disarming the group.

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

- On August 28, the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network [proposed](#) a rule for revoking the Banque Misr U.A.E.'s correspondent banking access to American financial networks, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stating that "We also warned that Iran's enablers cannot continue to enjoy access to the U.S. dollar and the global financial system. Banque Misr UAE decided to find out the hard way, and today, we are taking the first step in holding it accountable for its continued, egregious support of the Iranian regime."

Iran

- On August 27, the U.S. Naval Institute [reported](#) that the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* Carrier Strike Group will travel to the Middle East in the coming weeks for an over seven-month deployment to relieve the USS *George Washington*.
- On August 27, when asked whether the United States would sanction China for continued business with Iran, President Trump [responded](#), "Who said I'm not? You don't know if I'm doing it... I don't have to announce everything, do I?"

- Former Mossad chief David Barnea [stated](#) on August 27, “In my assessment, there will be no choice but to intensify the economic, diplomatic and operational actions against this regime until it falls—and it will fall.
- On August 27, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [wrote](#) on X that “the corrupt [Iranian] regime continues to squander enormous sums abroad,” adding that “Instead of funneling billions of dollars to its terrorist proxies, the regime should spend that money for its people.”
- On August 27, Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani [traveled](#) to Tehran to meet with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which Al Thani emphasized the importance of ensuring the free passage of traffic through the Strait in accordance with international law.
- On August 26, Energy Secretary Chris Wright [stated](#) that Washington’s preference is to reach a diplomatic solution with Tehran, but it is willing to destroy Iranian nuclear sites “if necessary.”

Lebanon

- On August 27, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [launched](#) airstrikes on Hezbollah weapon storage sites in the southern Lebanese town of Nabatieh, killing a woman, after Hezbollah fired two drones at Israeli soldiers in the Ali Taher Ridge area.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On August 28, Eritrea denied that the *Sibu 1*, a U.S.-sanctioned tanker [hijacked](#) by suspected pirates off Yemen and diverted toward Somalia, was registered under its flag. The vessel had been sanctioned by the United States for allegedly helping Iran evade sanctions on petroleum exports.
- Reuters [published](#) that, on August 27, seven commodity vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz—[three less](#) than the previous day and well below the 10-day average of 15 vessels, according to preliminary Kpler data. Of the seven vessels, four were exiting the Strait, including two chemical tankers and two oil tankers.
- On August 27, Treasury Secretary Bessent [posted](#) on X that the United States “has guided 130 millions barrels out over the past 14 days.”
- On August 27, CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [shared](#) that “over the past several months, US forces have assisted nearly 1,500 commercial vessels in transiting the strait by providing coordinated protection.”
 - » He added, “Those ships were carrying nearly 750 million barrels of crude oil destined for global energy markets... Iran has exported zero oil from its shores since we resumed the naval blockade in mid-July.”
 - » Admiral Cooper stated that “No ships have entered or left an Iranian port without our permission.”
 - » That day, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [reported](#) that U.S. forces have redirected 75 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.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- Overnight on August 27, Hezbollah [fired](#) two drones at Israeli troops in the Ali Taher Ridge area, which lies within the IDF’s buffer zone in southern Lebanon.
 - » The IDF intercepted one of the drones and lost contact with the other projectile.

Maritime

- On August 27, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [reported](#) that an unknown projectile struck a tanker transiting the Strait of Hormuz, igniting a fire.

Saudi Arabia

- On August 27, members of the Greek military [intercepted](#) drones targeting an oil refinery on the Red Sea near Yanbu, utilizing the U.S.-made Patriot air defense system, according to Reuters.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On August 28, Iran [sentenced](#) a 27-year-old mechanic to death due to alleged charges of cooperation with the Mossad and “waging war against God.”
- Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-affiliated *Fars News Agency* [reported](#) on August 27 that roughly 40 percent of the capacity of the South Pars gas field that had been damaged in strikes is back to being operational.

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

- On August 28, Iran’s Foreign Ministry [released](#) a statement urging countries to refrain from implementing U.S. sanctions on Iran, referring to the new sanctions as “state terrorism.”
- On August 27, Supreme National Security Council Secretary Rezaei [insisted](#) that reports suggesting Iran sought to assassinate Barron Trump were false.
- On August 27, Secretary Rezaei [stated](#) that “We do not trust the United States, and they have repeatedly betrayed diplomacy and negotiations,” warning, “If the United States starts any mischief against Iran, we will inflict such damage on their military and economic interests that it will go down in history.”
 - » He added that “The United States must first take practical steps toward fulfilling Iran’s conditions, and after that Iran will reopen the Strait of Hormuz.”
- On August 27, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf [said](#) of Iran that “The country is engaged in a full-scale economic war,” adding that “We will see the government and executive institutions, relying on the people, private-sector economic actors and all branches of the establishment, defeat the enemy on this battlefield as well.”
 - » He also addressed internal government tensions, saying, “Supporting the government does not mean overlooking its weaknesses, but trusting the government to serve the people better.”
- On August 27, hardline Iranian newspaper *Kayhan* called on Iran’s forces to launch missiles at U.S. interests in the Middle East in response to the new sanctions targeting Tehran.
 - » The article [stated](#) that “If the White House intends to continue the vicious cycle of sanctions, it must accept its heavy costs in the systematic destruction and complete insecurity of its investments worth hundreds of billions of dollars across the region,” particularly mentioning Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, Nvidia and Intel.
- On August 26, Iranian Armed Forces Spokesman Abolfazl Shekarchi [described](#) foreign Persian-language media outlets such as BBC Persian, Iran International and Radio Farda as “hostile,” calling them “the soldiers of Zionism and America” that are “included in our military target bank.”
- On August 26, Iranian nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami [addressed](#) the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) interest in inspecting Iranian nuclear sites damaged during the 12-Day War, saying the IAEA “cannot demand inspections,” and that “The country is still in a

wartime situation, and conditions are not yet such that we can assume the war has ended and the sites are secure.”

- » On August 26, Iranian Vice President for Nuclear Affairs Mohammad Eslami [said](#) inspections could not resume at nuclear facilities struck during the war until a new inspection protocol was established, arguing that Iran remained in a “wartime situation” and the damaged sites were not yet secure.

8. International Response

- On August 28, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Iranian businesses and banks are continuing operations in Dubai despite President Trump insisting that all countries must cease economic relations with Tehran.
- *The New York Times* [stated](#) on August 27 that Saudi Arabia seems to be preparing for a resumption of war against the Yemeni Houthis, citing analysts.
- Iran’s Bank Melli [continues](#) to operate despite Germany’s Foreign Ministry insisting on August 27 that “Bank Melli Iran is already subject to far-reaching sanctions at EU level, and this of course also applies to Bank Melli’s branch in Germany.”

9. JINSA Resources

- 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

Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations



<i>Country</i>	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Injured</i>	<i>Notes</i>
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.