



Iran War Update: August 1–3, 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

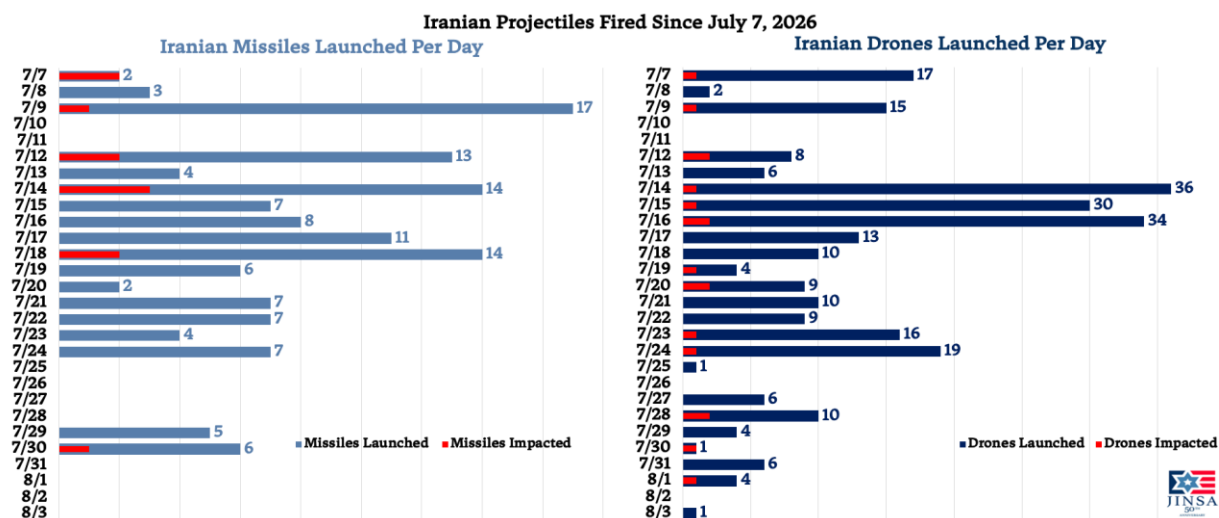
President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “over,” and 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 August 3 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 408** (8 between July 31–August 3)
Brent Crude Oil Price: [\\$83.06 a barrel](#) as of **9:55 am ET** ([day range](#): \$81.55–84.66)

1. Overview

- Amid public [reporting](#) that the United States was preparing to escalate strikes against Iran, on August 1, President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that he had agreed “to cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL” because “we have just been asked by Iran, and other Middle Eastern Countries, to hold off any attack in that the perimeters of a deal has been agreed to.”
 - » He specified that, “This would include the Immediate, Complete, and Total OPENING OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT, and an end to Iran’s nuclear threat.”
 - » He added in the post that, “The Country of Israel joins me in this commitment,” with Israel’s Channel 12 reporting that [planning](#) for the operation began on July 29 during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington, D.C.
 - » Israel’s Channel 12 also reported that Israeli officials only [learned](#) that President Trump had cancelled the strikes from his Truth Social post.
- Speaking to the press on August 2, President Trump [claimed](#) that U.S.-Iran negotiations will begin on August 3. Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei [disputed](#) that any talks are planned.
- Negotiations between Iran and Oman over reopening the Strait of Hormuz will [continue](#) on August 3, with Foreign Minister Araghchi [stating](#) on August 2 that conversations over a joint mechanism to manage the Strait of Hormuz are entering the “final stages.”
- The seventh round of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in Rome is set to [begin](#) on August 4.
- On August 3, CNN [reported](#) that a senior officer in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) had asked military analysts last week for “new creative and unconventional ways to pressure and punish Iran.”

- According to reporting from *The Washington Post* on August 1, General Alexis Grynkeiwich, the Commander of U.S. European Command (EUCOM), [warned](#) the Pentagon that his theater's U.S. naval forces are insufficient to continue defending Israel from missiles.
 - » General Grynkeiwich stated that without an additional Navy destroyer, he will have to choose between defending the U.S. homeland, or Israel.
- Responding to a question about the negotiations with Iran before a cabinet meeting on July 31, President Trump [indicated](#) that he is "losing faith" in Iran and responded to a question about how many more strikes it will take to open the Strait of Hormuz with "you never know...most people would have given up by now... They haven't, so I give them credit for that. They're tough."



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On August 2, Israel's Channel 12 [reported](#) that mediators were working to revive the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding after it collapsed over the Strait of Hormuz commercial shipping issue.
 - » Under the reported proposal, the Strait would remain toll-free for 60 days and a ceasefire would be restored.
- The Saudi Press Agency [confirmed](#) on August 2 that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) had spoken with President Trump to press for diplomacy and raise concerns about a potential wider regional conflict.
- On August 2, Israel's Channel 12 [reported](#) that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had agreed to a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which prompted President Trump to cancel planned U.S. strikes against Iran.
 - » That day, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-affiliated *Fars News* agency, citing a member of Iran's negotiating team, [denied](#) that Tehran had reached an agreement on a U.S.-Qatari deal to split control of the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman.

Lebanon

- One day before Israel-Lebanon talks are set to resume in Rome, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michael Issa [shared](#) in a statement on August 3 that "a great deal of technical work remains to ensure civilian safety on the ground."

- » He cautioned that, “There is a meaningful difference between drafting an agreement on paper and implementing it responsibly — moving too quickly risks jeopardizing the very civilians this process is meant to protect.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On August 2, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#) that CENTCOM and Israeli officials were not aware that President Trump had canceled planned strikes on Iran on August 1 until he posted about it on his Truth Social account.
- In comments to the press on August 2, President Trump [shared](#) that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), and Qatar had requested that he hold off strikes on Iran planned for last weekend.
 - » President Trump [noted](#), “We were all set to go at this time right now, and it would have been a massive attack... but [then] the allies asked to call it off... The reason they ask is they think there’s a deal. There’s a deal on Hormuz, and then there will be a deal on the denuclearization of Iran.”
- On August 2, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Saudi Arabia’s MBS had pushed for the United States to hold off on further strikes, while the U.A.E. urged President Trump to take “more decisive action” against Iran.
 - » Emirati officials reportedly argued that Iranian forces would not concede during negotiations without the United States escalating the conflict, such as seizing the Strait of Hormuz or launching a ground invasion in Iran.
- Before President Trump canceled the attack, CBS News [reported](#) on August 1 that U.S. and Israeli forces were planning to carry out “one of the harshest bombing campaigns to date” against Iranian energy sites over the weekend, but that President Trump had not yet approved the strike orders.
 - » *The Wall Street Journal* previously [reported](#) on July 31 that President Trump had ordered strikes against Iran in hopes of forcing the regime to surrender to the United States.
- Speaking to reporters before a cabinet meeting on July 31, President Trump [claimed](#) that Iran is “having a hard time. They’ve been very dishonest. They’ve been very dishonorable to deal with, but that makes no difference. They’re doing very, very poorly.”
 - » When asked whether Americans should prepare for further tit-for-tat exchanges of fire, he [responded](#), “a little bit... It would be foolish to say no. You always have to keep your guard up.”

Lebanon

- On August 1, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [carried out](#) a strike, killing Hezbollah operatives who had wounded an Israeli soldier during a firefight in the Ali Taher ridge area of southern Lebanon.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On August 1, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that Tehran was the primary suspect for a string of cyber attacks on American water systems last week that had targeted at least seven states, according to U.S. federal officials, but President Trump later [indicated](#) he does not think Iran is responsible.

Iraq

- On July 31, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) [said](#) Iran launched two drones at one of its bases in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kuwait

- On the morning of August 1, Kuwaiti forces [intercepted](#) several Iranian drones targeting facilities in the Gulf country, including a government building and civilian vehicles on Bubiyan Island.
 - » The attack resulted in material damage from falling shrapnel, but did not cause any casualties.
- On July 31, Kuwaiti forces [shot down](#) Iranian drones targeting military sites in the Gulf country, causing material damage from falling shrapnel, but no injuries.

Lebanon

- On the evening of August 2, the IDF [announced](#) that Hezbollah was responsible for planting a bomb that exploded and struck a vehicle in the southern Lebanese town of Kafra earlier in the day, lightly injuring five Lebanese soldiers.

Maritime

- On August 3, the IRGC-linked *Tasnim News Agency* [reported](#) that Iranian forces had shot down a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Strait of Hormuz, claiming that a new Iranian advanced air defense system was responsible for the interception.
- The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [reported](#) on August 2 that a tanker reported an explosion near the vessel. The incident occurred in the Strait of Hormuz roughly 20 nautical miles north of Khasab, Oman.
- On August 1, UKMTO [stated](#) that a tanker witnessed a large splash and explosion in close proximity to the vessel. The event occurred in the same area of the Strait.
- On July 31, a tanker was [struck](#) by an unidentified projectile approximately 11 nautical miles northeast of Lima, Oman, damaging its engine room and leaving the vessel not under command. No casualties were reported, according to UKMTO.

5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On August 3, Iranian authorities [executed](#) two men accused of spying for Israel, claiming the men had provided Mossad with information on Iranian military and security facilities during the 2025 and 2026 wars.

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

- On August 3, Iran's hardline *Kayhan* newspaper [threatened](#) regional Arab states if an external force strikes Iran's energy infrastructure, writing that "The Islamic Republic is capable of using its missiles to plunge these countries into crisis within half a day."
- On August 2, Iranian media, citing unnamed military sources, [reported](#) that Iranian forces are pushing back on President Trump's statement that Iran urged him to cancel a planned attack due to diplomatic progress in negotiations, calling his statements a "lie."
- On August 1, the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Major General Ali Abdollah, [insisted](#) that "Muslim countries must act with foresight, monitor America's actions and reconsider their cooperation and alignment with the United States," adding that "Otherwise, any country that makes itself a defensive shield for the United States ... will burn in the fire of war."

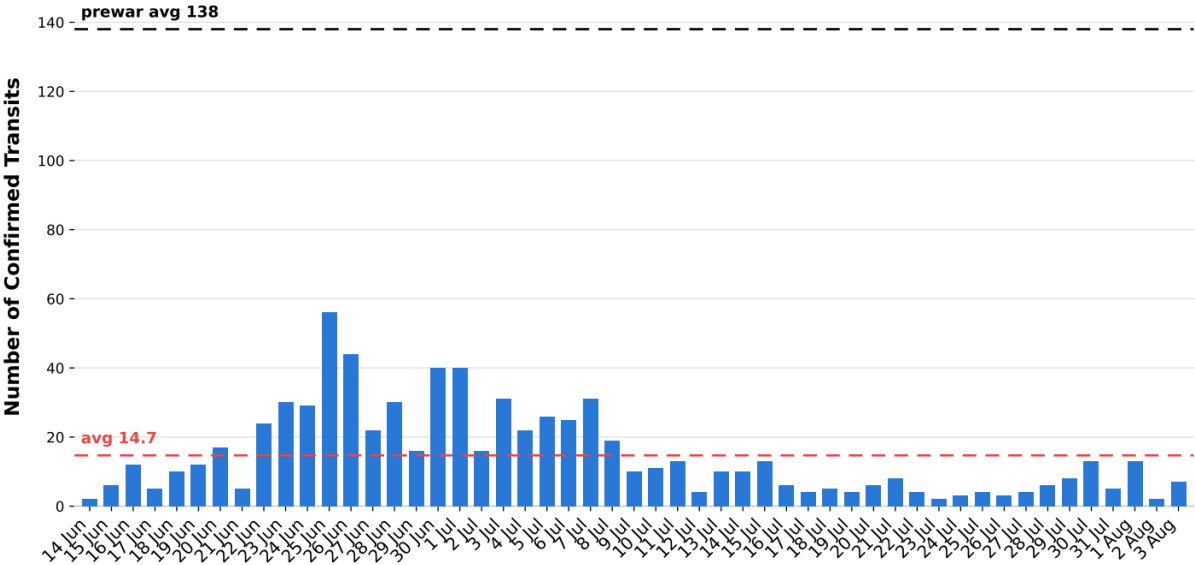
7. JINSA Resources

- 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
- 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

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	65+	7,795+	Killed include 26 civilians and 39 troops 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.