



Iran War Update: August 29–31, 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 31 at 10:00 am ET.

Brent Crude Oil Price: [\\$90.68 a barrel](#) as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$89.03–91.52)

1. Overview

- In an interview with Fox News on August 31 following Iranian attacks earlier that day, President Donald Trump [warned](#) that the United States is “going to hit them [Iran] hard” and “there will be a response.”
 - » He stated that the U.S. military allowed one missile that was not expected to strike any significant targets to get past air defenses, and the rest of the missiles Iran launched were intercepted.
- Overnight on August 31, Iran launched missile and drone attacks against [Jordan](#) and the [United Arab Emirates](#) (U.A.E.), with Jordanian forces intercepting eight ballistic missiles.
- On August 30, “U.S. forces struck two Iranian launchers on Larak Island. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces were observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into Strait of Hormuz,” according to a [statement](#) from a U.S. official.
- On August 30, President Trump [posted](#) an AI-generated video on Truth Social depicting massive explosions at Iran’s Kharg Island, with the caption “Kharg Island being blown to smithereens!!!”
- On August 30, *The Washington Post* [reported](#) that the military heads of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force, European Command (EUCOM), Pacific Command (PACOM), and Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) warned Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on August 14 that continuing to fight Iran would decrease the U.S. ability to counter threats in regions beyond the Middle East.
 - » The warning was delivered through the Secretary of Defense Orders Book (SDOB), which details the global availability of U.S. military assets, with senior military leaders stating that they “non-concur” with Secretary Hegseth’s order to keep elevated troop levels in the Middle East until 2027, indicating they disagree but will still execute the order.

- According to reporting from *The Wall Street Journal* on August 28, citing American officials, military planners are [concerned](#) that the movement of munitions to the Middle East is decreasing the United States' ability to protect against possible threats from China and Russia.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In an interview with Fox News on August 31, President Trump [repeated](#) past statements that the Iranians “want to meet so badly,” though he added, “I just don't know if you can count on a deal with them.”
- On August 28, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [said](#) Iran was prepared to restart co-operation with regional countries, including Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E.

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

Iran

- On August 30, U.S. forces [struck](#) two Iranian rocket launchers on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first known U.S. military strikes against Iran in roughly a month.
 - » A U.S. official told Reuters that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces had been observed “preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into [the] Strait of Hormuz.”
- On August 28, the United States [imposed](#) additional Iran-related sanctions targeting a Hong Kong-based entity and an individual linked to Iran's largest bank—Bank Melli—days after Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced an expanded sanctions campaign against Tehran and its economic enablers.
- On August 28, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [said](#) U.S. sanctions had contributed to a 25–35 percent decline in Iran's trade, with imports falling more sharply than exports.
 - » Pezeshkian rejected claims that sanctions had no effect on the Iranian economy, stating, “I really don't know what to say” to those who believe “sanctions have no effect at all.”

Lebanon

- On August 29, Lebanese media [reported](#) that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched a drone strike on Nabatieh al-Fawqa in southern Lebanon.

Yemen

- On August 28, Yemeni government forces [carried out](#) a drone strike, targeting a gathering of Houthi members and an ammunition depot in the country's Al-Dhale province.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Jordan

- On August 31, Iran [launched](#) ballistic missiles at U.S. forces stationed at King Hussein and Al Azraq bases in retaliation for the August 30 U.S. strikes on Iranian launchers on Larak Island, according to the IRGC.
 - » Jordan's military [said](#) its air defenses intercepted eight missiles that entered Jordanian airspace, with a U.S. source [telling](#) Fox News that there was no significant damage to the bases.

Maritime

- On August 31, the IRGC [reported](#) that two naval mines hit a supertanker traveling through the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a fire on the ship.

- » The IRGC insisted that the supertanker had tried to transit the strait illegally and threatened that any other ship that tries to cross the waterway without Iran's permission would be subject to the same consequences.
- » However, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) later [responded](#) to the IRGC's statement, insisting, "Iran's claims ... are false."
- On August 31, the IRGC [launched](#) air defense missiles at an MQ-9 drone operating over the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iran's *Mehr News Agency*, which cited the IRGC.

Outside the Middle East

- On August 29, Israel's Shin Bet [told](#) Israel's Channel 12, "There was a significant threat to harm Yair Netanyahu, and in light of this and after an assessment, a decision was made together with the security team to urgently rescue him and return him to Israel."
- » While Shin Bet did not specify if Iran had targeted the Israeli Prime Minister's son, the announcement comes after Benjamin Netanyahu told Channel 14 News, "Iran targeted one of my sons. Iran tried to kill, to murder one of my sons," and Newsmax reported that Iran attempted to assassinate Yair Netanyahu while he was in Florida in December 2025.

U.A.E.

- On August 31, the Emirati Ministry of Defense [stated](#) that its forces "responded" to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) identified over the nation's territorial waters.

5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On August 29, Iranian President Pezeshkian [revealed](#) that heavy U.S. sanctions targeting Iran have impacted the country following his earlier claims that they hadn't, saying, "We are in a war situation, and we must accept these wartime conditions."
- On August 28, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei [barred](#) citizens from "committing anything that harms social cohesion," and called on Iranian authorities to refrain from releasing "discouraging statements that weaken national and public motivation."

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

- On August 31, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [wrote](#) on X that "In Hebrew, Netanyahu openly crows that he suckered the US Administration into a war on Iran on behalf of Israel. Netanyahu explicitly laughs about how he 'influenced' America through 1,000 hours of airtime on US networks," adding, "In English, he praises POTUS' leadership. Serpent."
- On August 30, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei [issued](#) a written statement in which he called on Gulf country leaders to identify their "real enemy" and engage in mutual defense with Iran against their shared "enemies."
- On August 29, Foreign Minister Araghchi [spoke](#) during the 40th International Islamic Unity Conference, saying that "We want good relations with all Islamic countries, especially neighboring countries."
 - » Despite attacking several Muslim-majority countries during the war, Araghchi stated that "We seek broader economic relations with all Islamic countries, and, thank God, we have extensive relations with all of them," adding, "Our approach toward the Islamic world is based on unity."
 - His calls for unity coupled with his threats, with Araghchi warning, "Our fighters will strike any American target in the region during wartime, whether it is a US base, an American facility or a gathering point for their forces."

- On August 28, the IRGC Navy [claimed](#) that it holds “full control” over the Strait of Hormuz and warned that restrictions on shipping through the waterway would persist until the end of U.S. military action against Iran and the implementation of relevant commitments.
- On August 28, Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem [reiterated](#) his rejection of the Israel-Lebanon deal, claiming “We are against the framework agreement and call for its downfall.”

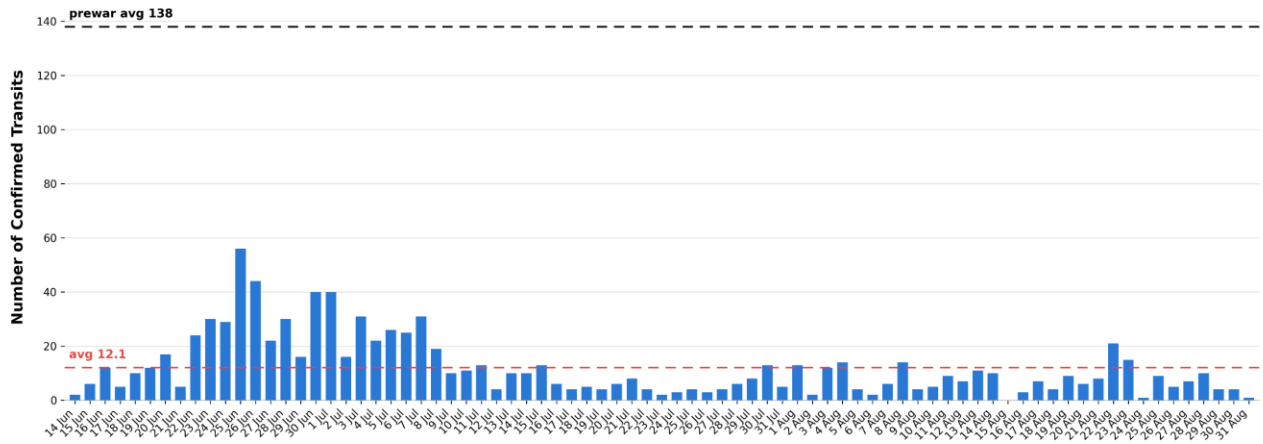
7. JINSA Resources

- 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
- 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.