



Iran War Update: September 3–4, 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 September 4 at 10:30 am ET.

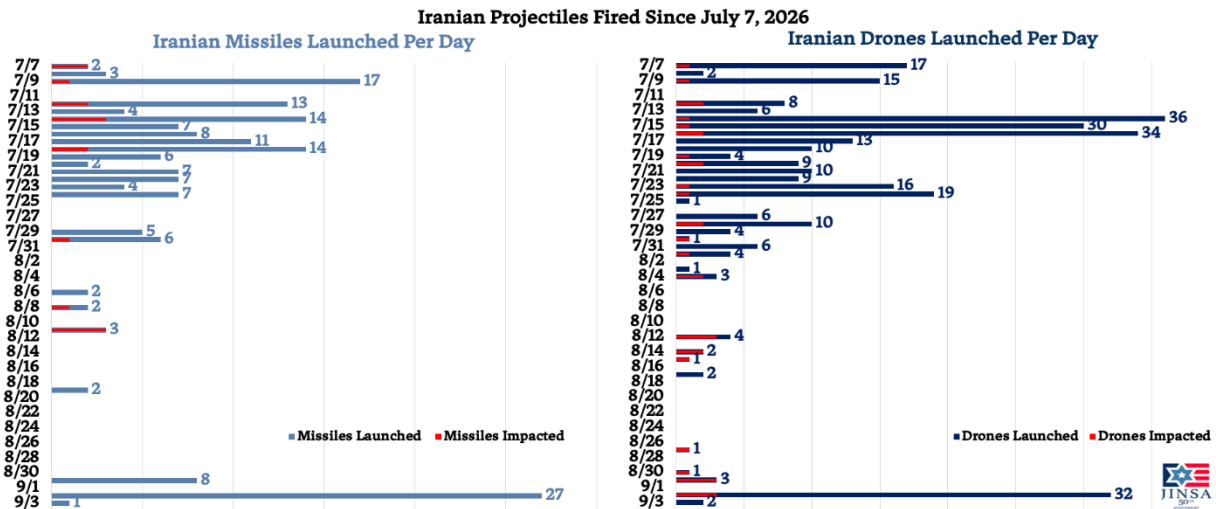
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 504** (3 on September 3–4)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$94.31 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$93.52–97.04)

1. Overview

- On September 3–4, the International Committee of the Red Cross [transferred](#) five Lebanese civilians detained by Israeli authorities back to Lebanon as part of a broader U.S.-brokered Israel-Lebanon peace agreement.
 - As part of the deal, Israeli and Lebanese troops are also working to [locate](#) the bodies of Lebanese Jews killed by terrorists in the 1980s.
- On September 3, Vice President JD Vance [stated](#) during a press conference that “we are not talking to the Iranians, and we are not going to talk to them unless they stop shooting at commercial shipping,” adding that his “advice to the Iranians is stop acting like crazy people.”
 - When asked whether the war would be over by the U.S. midterm elections on November 3, Vice President Vance responded that he “wouldn’t call it a war” and also later noted that “the reason gas prices are so high right now is because the Iranians are shooting at commercial shipping... Yes, gas prices are higher in the United States, but they’re way worse everywhere else in the world.”
- On September 2, when asked how long the war would last, President Donald Trump [reiterated](#) that it will be “not too long,” adding, “I don’t think it will be very much longer. Don’t know how much more they can take.”
- Discussing the latest escalation with Iran during an interview for Israel’s *Kan* broadcaster on September 2, President Trump [stated](#) that “Israel should not worry. You know why? Because I’m the president and I will take care of Israel.”
- On September 2, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth extended U.S. troop deployments in the Middle East to 2027, which will maintain 50,000 troops, 19 warships, aircraft, and air defense assets in the region.

- » The report also indicated that President Trump has had conversations with his aides about declaring the war over.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On September 3, President Trump [held](#) a phone conversation with Emirati President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in which the leaders discussed cooperation between the two countries, as well as regional developments.

Lebanon

- On September 4, the International Committee of the Red Cross [confirmed](#) that its workers successfully completed the handover of four Lebanese civilians back to Lebanon after Israeli authorities detained them and found they had no terrorism connections.
 - » The handover of the four civilians comes after a fifth Lebanese civilian was also transferred back to Lebanon the day prior.
 - » The [release](#) of the five Lebanese civilians is part of the broader U.S.-mediated Israel-Lebanon peace talks, with a State Department official telling reporters that “Israel is re-releasing detainees and Lebanon is helping Israel recover the lost remains of Lebanese Jews.”

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

- Following reports that Iran had used ad tracking information to target U.S. forces, the U.S. Air Force [indicated](#) in a letter to Senator Ron Wyden released on September 4 that it had removed ad tracking from computers and mobile devices two months ago.
 - » Special Operations Command stated in a separate letter to Senator Wyden that it had also “recently” removed ad tracking.
- On September 3, *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that the leaders of Israel’s major defense manufacturers sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claiming that, “In the absence of orders and given the government’s unwillingness to make commitments, we face the closure of production lines for some munitions within the coming month, in a manner that will impair the IDF’s [Israel Defense Forces] ability to carry out its missions.”
 - » The letter reportedly indicated that the Israeli Finance Ministry has not transferred \$13.3 billion (NIS 40 billion) to purchase munitions.

Iran

- On September 3, Prime Minister Netanyahu [spoke](#) of the Iranian government, claiming, “The regime is now faltering. It is weaker than ever. It is fighting for its survival.”
 - » He stated that “I am confident in our ability to remove this threat once and for all – in other words, to topple this regime,” adding, “That is the central mission that still lies ahead of us, but it is close. It is not impossible. It is within reach.”
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu also highlighted that “It is no coincidence that they are not attacking us. They are attacking everyone except us. They know our strength, the force of our blows and our determination.”
 - » Additionally, he warned Iran and its proxies: “Don’t mess with us. If you have learned anything, don’t mess with us. We have the strength, the determination and the internal unity to defeat you.”
- On September 3, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [announced](#) that “There are signs we are seeing that indicate that the heavy economic pressure Iran is under and the fear of an uprising and the fall of the regime could push them to desperate measures.”
 - » He warned that “An Iranian attack on Israel will free us from all constraints. We will strike all infrastructure — including energy infrastructure — and return Iran to the Stone Age and darkness.”
 - » Adding, he insisted that “Israel is well prepared, defensively and offensively, for every possibility — and the IDF is ready to carry out the mission.”
- On September 3, Iran’s Tasnim News Agency [reported](#) that U.S. strikes on regime targets on September 1 killed six members of the Iranian army’s naval forces.

Lebanon

- On September 3, the IDF [completed](#) an operation aimed at dismantling Hezbollah’s control of a tunnel complex underneath the Ali Taher Ridge in Southern Lebanon, as well as the group’s positions above the underground facility.
 - » During the operation, Israeli troops uncovered centers and weapons rooms, as well as living quarters where Hezbollah members would camp out for long periods.
 - » The IDF also announced that once its troops demolish the tunnel complex, Israeli forces “will establish a renewed defensive posture in accordance with the situational assessment.”
 - » Defense Minister Katz [praised](#) the operation, saying that “Prime Minister Netanyahu and I are leading a clear and uncompromising policy, reinforced every day by the IDF: Israel will not withdraw from the security zone in Lebanon until Hezbollah is disarmed throughout Lebanon and the threats to the residents of the Galilee are removed,” adding that “The capture of Ali Taher is an important step toward achieving this goal.”
 - Katz also stated that this operation “marks the completion of the phase of establishing control over the security zone in southern Lebanon.”

Yemen

- Clashes between Yemen’s internationally recognized government forces and the Iran-backed Houthis on September 3–4 [killed](#) at least 81 combatants, including 39 government troops and 42 Houthi militants.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On September 3, CENTCOM [reported](#) that U.S. forces have redirected 87 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 September 2, President Trump [posted](#) to Truth Social that he is considering changing the name of the Strait of Hormuz to “Trump Strait” now that it is “under U.S.A. control.”

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Kuwait

- On September 2, Iran’s army [said](#) it targeted American “satellite communication systems, equipment depots, and fighter aircraft hangars” at the Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base with an unspecified number of missiles and drones. Kuwait’s air defenses were [activated](#) against the incoming projectiles. No casualties or damage were reported.

Lebanon

- On September 3, Reuters [reported](#), citing three named regional officials, that Iran had warned the United States it would launch a large-scale attack in response to any full-fledged Israeli offensive on the Ali Taher ridge in southern Lebanon. According to Reuters, Iranian military personnel are positioned on the ridge alongside Hezbollah fighters.

Outside the Middle East

- On September 3, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#) that Israeli officials believe Iran’s IRGC-Quds Force and Hamas have intensified efforts to carry out high-profile attacks against Israelis abroad, potentially seeking to exploit the upcoming Jewish holidays and the third anniversary of the October 7 attack.

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

- On August 3, Ahmad Vahidi, commander of the IRGC, [stated](#) that the U.S. strike that killed four people during a wedding ceremony in southern Iran “will not go unanswered and will definitely be avenged.”

7. International Response

- On September 4, a South Korean presidential official [said](#) Seoul was reviewing options, including potential military measures, to support freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » The official rejected claims that South Korea had provided no assistance on the issue, while saying that broader South Korea-U.S. security talks were “not currently progressing.”
- On September 4, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [said](#) on X that the “European Union has officially joined Operation Economic Outcast.” However, the bloc’s August 30 [statement](#) only said it “welcomes efforts” to curb Iran’s destabilizing activities, including “through the US led Operation Economic Outcast,” and did not announce that the bloc had formally joined the sanctions campaign.

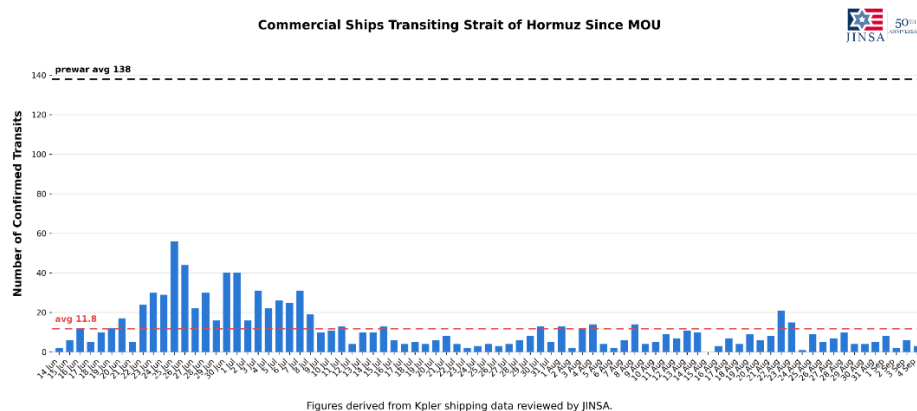
8. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [How to Win the Iran War](#), September 3, 2026
- 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, [A New Baseline to Prevent a Nuclear Iran](#), July 30, 2026
- Ari Cicurel and Sarah Havdala, [Preventing Iran's Weaponization of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait](#), July 29, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, ["Taking Out Iran's Pickaxe Nuclear Site is Key — Here's How Trump Can Do It,"](#) *New York Post*, Friday, July 24, 2026
- 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

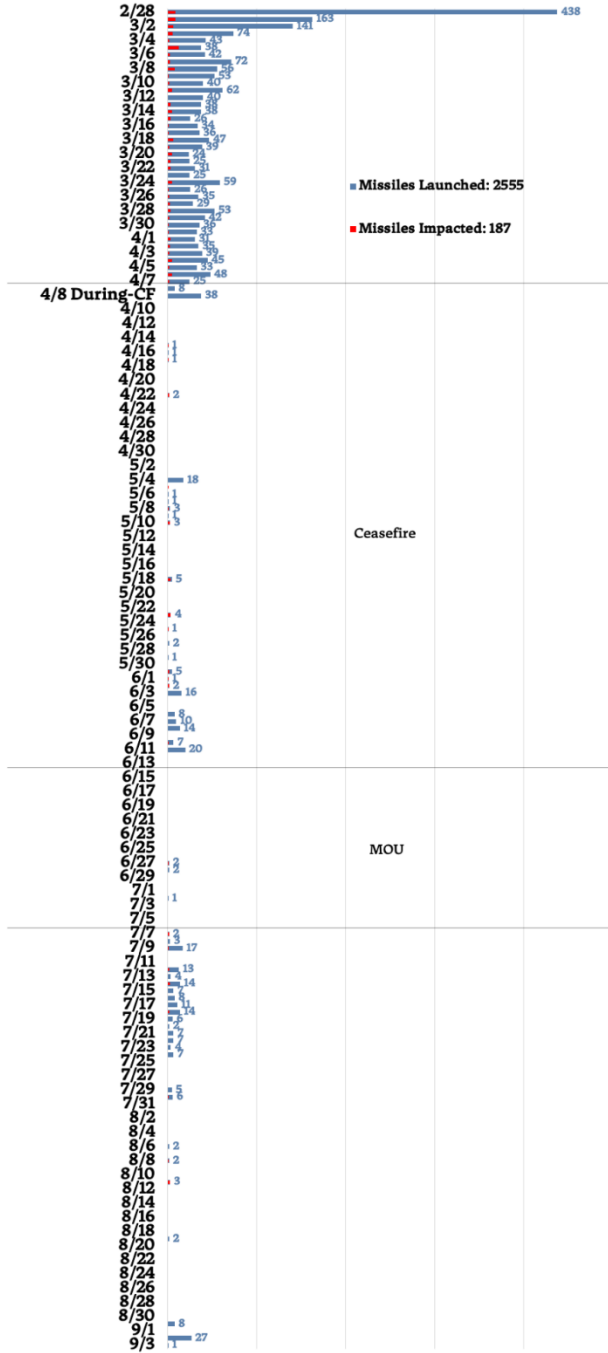
Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations			JINSA
Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	18	500+	1 missing; 10 seriously wounded; 100 wounded in July; 358+ returned to duty
Israel	67+	7,798+	Killed include 26 civilians and 41 troops killed fighting Hezbollah (40 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,720+	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.



Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

