



Iran War Update: September 15–16, 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 16 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 550** (1 on September 15–16)

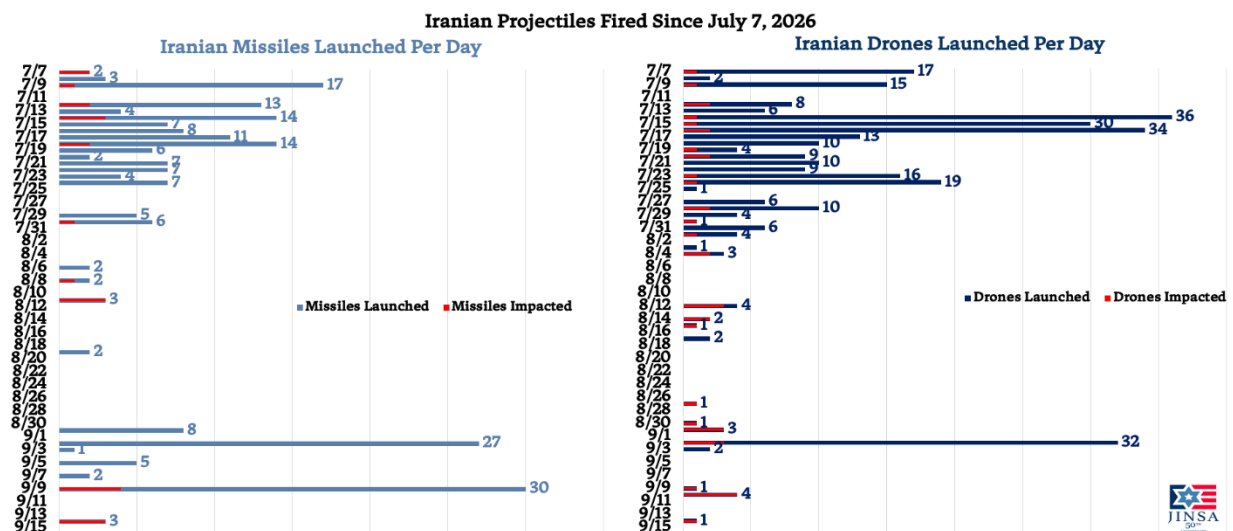
Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$107.53 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$106.66–108.59)

1. Overview

- [Axios](#) and [Israel Hayom](#) reported on September 15–16 that U.S. Central Command (CENT-COM) is facilitating discussions on Israel providing intelligence assistance to Saudi Arabia as it seeks to counter the Houthis.
- On September 16, Israel's *Walla* [reported](#) that Saudi Arabia is “considering upgrading its defense systems by integrating [Israel's] Iron Dome and Arrow” air defense systems.
- On September 16, Reuters [reported](#) that the Houthis pledged not to attack U.S. ships and that they remained committed to the 2025 U.S.-Houthi ceasefire, during a meeting in Oman with U.S. officials over the previous weekend.
 - » One source also told Reuters that the Houthis promised not to attack Israeli ships or commercial vessels other than those belonging to Saudi Arabia.
- On September 15, the House of Representatives [voted](#) to approve a war powers resolution that would restrain President Trump's ability to continue the war in Iran, marking the third time a similar measure had passed in the House.
- On September 15, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) [introduced](#) a resolution to begin impeachment proceedings against Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth over his conduct in the Iran war. The resolution will force a vote in the House over whether or not to impeach Secretary Hegseth.
 - » According to ABC News reporting that day, “Unless GOP leaders change the floor schedule again, the House must [hold a vote](#) on the resolution within two-legislative days -- by Thursday [September 17].”
- On September 16, CNN [reported](#) that fourteen Russian satellites passed over an American base in Saudi Arabia in the days prior to a significant Iranian attack, with U.S. officials and

intelligence sources stating that the information gathered by the satellites was likely passed to the Iranians and facilitated Iran's high-precision attacks.

- On September 15, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [indicated](#) that six months of war with Iran has cost the United States \$38 billion and estimated that continued operations will cost \$3 billion per month, with the majority of the costs due to the large munitions expenditure.
 - » The CBO also predicted that the war will raise inflation by 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2027.
- According to *Axios* reporting on September 15, CENTCOM Commander ADM Brad Cooper [convened](#) the military chiefs of staff of Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt in Germany last week for a discussion on the Iran war and regional tensions.
 - » CENTCOM confirmed the meeting and noted that "The leaders discussed opportunities for enhancing security cooperation in the Middle East."
- [The Washington Post](#) reported on September 15 that the Trump administration is planning to sell Israel an arms package worth \$2.8 billion, which would include tens of thousands of 2,000-pound bombs, the largest quantity of the munition sold to Israel in a single sale in recent years.
- Speaking at a conference on September 15, Vice President JD Vance [stated](#) that the United States "cannot let our Middle Eastern foreign policy be subservient to the State of Israel."
 - » Vance noted that more than previous presidents over the last four decades, President Trump "has shown a willingness to actually part ways with Bibi Netanyahu when he feels like the interests of the American people are different from the interests of the government of Israel."



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On September 14, following President Trump's statement that he was ready to resume negotiations with Iran, Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei [rejected](#) talks unless Tehran's demands were met, stating, "No talks until Iran's conditions are met. Period!"
 - » Iran's stated conditions for ending hostilities and its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz have [included](#) war reparations and the lifting of sanctions.

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

- In a meeting of top military commanders from the United States, Israel, and seven Arab states last week, CENTCOM Commander ADM Cooper [remarked](#) that the United States would not withdraw troops from the Middle East despite American bases being targeted by Iran, according to *Axios* reporting on September 15.

Lebanon

- On September 15, Israeli troops [discovered](#) a Hezbollah rocket launcher, [32 rockets](#), and a tunnel shaft, which the group likely abandoned following the April ceasefire, in the Israeli buffer zone on the Lebanese side of Mount Dov.

Strait of Hormuz

- On September 15, *Axios* [reported](#) that the United States destroyed two Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fishing boats on September 14 that Iran deployed in an attempt to capture an American military drone.
 - » According to CENTCOM, the Iranian operation failed, and the United States still maintains control of the drone.
 - » The same *Axios* report notes that U.S. forces and Gulf countries are now helping vessels transit the Strait of Hormuz both during the day and night, with the U.S. assisting an average of 40 ships daily.
- On September 15, CENTCOM [reported](#) that U.S. forces have redirected 103 vessels attempting to bypass the Strait of Hormuz blockade reimposed on July 14.

Yemen

- *Haaretz* [reported](#) on September 15 that Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officials have advised Israeli leadership to refrain from strikes against the Houthis, instead advocating for a broader regional response.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On September 15, Saudi Arabia [suspended](#) oil loadings at the Red Sea port of Yanbu after the kingdom's East-West Pipeline, which supplies 5 percent of global oil supplies, was forced offline following strikes from Iran-backed groups on September 10.
- On September 15, Energy Secretary Chris Wright [told](#) CNBC that the timeline for oil to begin flowing again through the East-West Pipeline "will be measured in days." Reuters, citing multiple sources, [reported](#) the pipeline could take up to six weeks to repair, although small flows could resume in stages as repairs progress.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- On September 15, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [posted](#) on X that a vessel had been struck the previous day by an unidentified projectile in the Strait of Hormuz.
- In a separate incident, the Omani Maritime Security Center [announced](#) on September 15 that it is trying to locate two missing crewmembers who were aboard the Panama-flagged oil tanker *ELGAIA* that is now being towed to an Omani port after it caught fire following an attack in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » While Oman did not specify the date of the attack, the UKMTO Center announced that a ship in the Strait of Hormuz was set ablaze after coming under fire by an unknown

projectile on September 12, the same day British maritime security firm Vanguard Tech noted that a Panama-flagged vessel suffered an attack in the same waterway.

Saudi Arabia

- On September 16, the Houthis [claimed](#) that their forces attacked Saudi Aramco facilities in the city of Yanbu, as well as an airbase in Khamis Mushait, but Saudi officials have yet to confirm the attacks.
- On September 16, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen [announced](#) that Saudi forces intercepted a Houthi drone targeting the holy city of Mecca.
 - » Saudi Arabia later [confirmed](#) the attack, calling it a “cowardly terrorist attack.”
 - » However, the Houthis [rejected](#) the accusation, with a Houthi politburo official writing on X that “The claims about targeting Mecca are a worn-out lie that has been used before and no longer fools anyone.”
- Due to repeated Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, the United States [issued](#) an advisory to “reconsider travel” to the kingdom on September 16.
- The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen [announced](#) that 13 civilians were wounded in Houthi attacks on three Saudi cities—Khamis Mushait, Abha and Taif—on September 15.

6. International Response

- On September 16, Sweden [summoned](#) Iran’s ambassador to Stockholm and expelled an embassy employee, with Swedish Justice Minister Gunnar Strommer revealing that, “We know that Iran, over a long period of time, has conducted activities that threaten security in and against Sweden, targeting both individuals who oppose the Iranian regime and various Jewish and Israeli interests in our country. This has, among other things, been done by making use of criminal networks.”

7. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel and Jonah Brody, [All Is Not Quiet on the Houthi Front](#), September 11, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, [Why Iran Fears Israel, But Not America](#), September 9, 2026
- 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

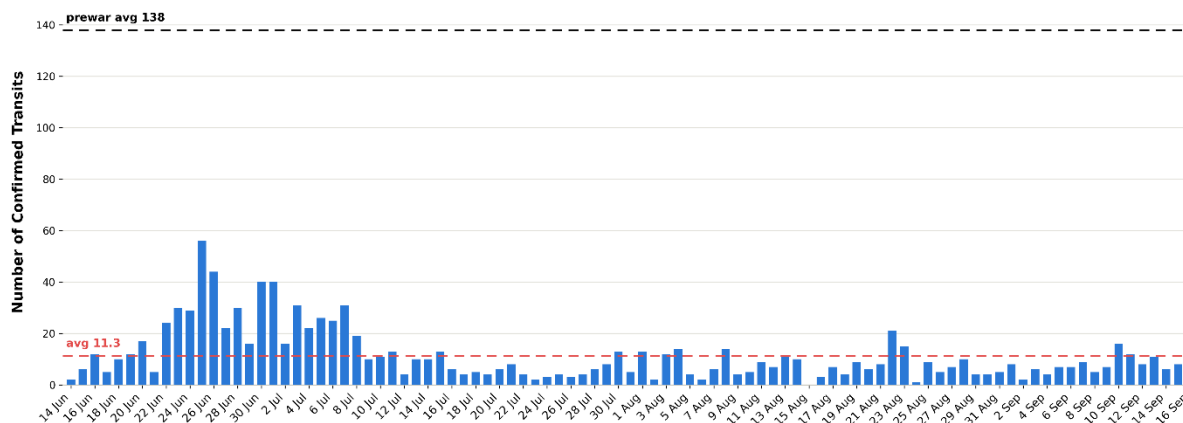
Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations



Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	18	500+	1 missing; 10 seriously wounded; 100 wounded in July; 358+ returned to duty
Israel	67+	7,800+	Killed include 26 civilians and 41 troops killed fighting Hezbollah (40 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,724+	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	9	161+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,383	12,406	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	23	Killed occurred in March 22 helicopter crash
Saudi Arabia	3	47	Killed include 1 Saudi national and 2 foreign nationals
Syria	4+	Several	
United Arab Emirates	12	230	
International Waters	22	Several	

Data compiled by JINSA from various sources.

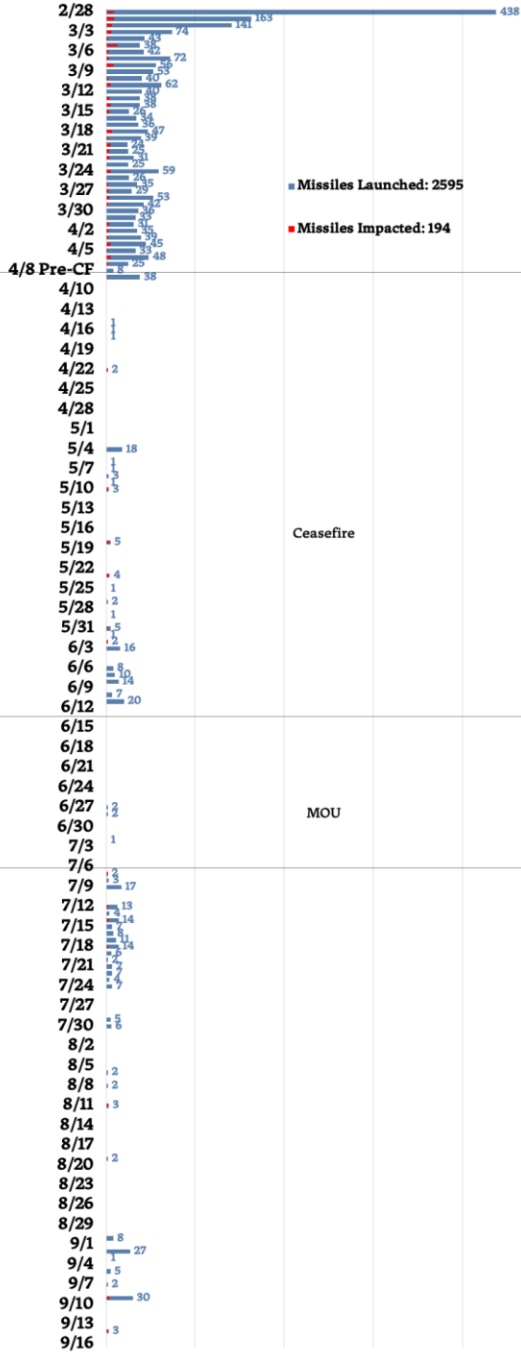
Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

