



Iran War Update: September 24–25, 2026

Ari Cicurel

Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin

Senior Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala

Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber

Research Associate

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 25 at 10:15 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 555** (0 on September 24–25)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **\$104.77 a barrel** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$104.51–106.40)

1. Overview

- In an interview with CNBC on September 25, U.S. Ambassador to China David Perdue [stated](#) that President Donald Trump conveyed in his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping that Chinese assistance to Iran is unacceptable to him.
 - » Their meeting followed [reporting](#) from *The Wall Street Journal* on September 23 that in the first half of 2026, Iran received about 1,300 shipments with dual-use components for drones and missiles from China.
 - » Separately, on September 23, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Iran's Houthi proxies are increasingly receiving dual-use components directly from China and that the Houthis are training many of their operatives in Mandarin to forge contacts with Chinese firms.
- On September 25, the United Nations (UN) Security Council [voted](#) to condemn Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia.
- On September 24, 80 nations [voted](#) at the UN General Assembly to demand that the Strait of Hormuz be reopened and to condemn Iran and the Houthis for attacks against nations and shipping in the Middle East.
- Emirati and Saudi leaders are reportedly [urging](#) President Trump to maintain the naval blockade and sweeping sanctions on Iran. The Gulf leaders' opposition to American concessions is impeding efforts towards a new U.S.-Iran deal, per *Wall Street Journal* reporting from September 24.
- On September 24, CBS News [reported](#) that days before the Iran war began, an Army commanding general rejected a proposal to shift U.S. troops from Kuwait's Shuaiba Port to bases further away from Iran, including two in Saudi Arabia.

- » In the war's first week, an Iranian drone attack on the Shuaiba Port facility killed six U.S. troops and wounded 20 more.
- During an [interview](#) with Fox News on September 24, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian denied any "systematic relationship" between Iran and the Houthis or Hezbollah, while claiming that "we do not wish to continue" the conflict with the United States and that "it's America that must choose whether it wants to end this or not."
 - » He also acknowledged that "one of the problems we face is that our money in China is blocked" due to U.S. sanctions.
- On September 24, the U.S. Senate narrowly [rejected](#) a war powers resolution that sought to limit President Trump's ability to wage war in Iran by a vote of 50-49.
- Addressing the United Nations on September 23, President Pezeshkian [stated](#), "For our country, peaceful nuclear technology is part of our inherent progress ... We will not bow our head and give up the right that is inherently ours."
- Speaking before the United Nations on September 23, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [stated](#), "with our great American friends, we crushed Iran's army, navy, air force and nuclear facilities. Israel hammered Hamas. We pummeled Hezbollah."
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu continued, "Guess what happened to the bulk of Hezbollah's vast arsenal of 150,000 ballistic missiles and rockets, all aimed at our civilians? They're gone. Hezbollah's leaders — dead. Their spirit — broken."
 - » In addition, he addressed "the protesters outside," rhetorically asking them, "where were you when the Iranian tyrants butchered and maimed tens of thousands of unarmed Iranian civilians?"

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In comments to the press on September 24, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [stated](#) that Tehran had presented a seven-day proposal to Washington to end hostilities. A senior Iranian official [told](#) Reuters on September 24 that Iran was reviewing the U.S. response to its proposal.
 - » Under the Iranian proposal, during the first seven days, hostilities on all fronts, including in Lebanon, would terminate; Iran's frozen assets would be released, and sanctions on its oil would be waived; and the U.S. naval blockade would be lifted.
 - » On the last day, the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened.
 - » Immediately after the seven-day period, nuclear negotiations would commence.
- The Iranian and Qatari heads of state met in New York City while both were in attendance for the UN General Assembly this week, Qatar's foreign ministry announced.
 - » The Qatari readout [stated](#) that "discussions during the meeting focused on the latest developments in the region, along with efforts to de-escalate tensions and create a conducive environment for dialogue, thereby contributing to the enhancement of regional security and stability."
- Speaking at the United Nations on September 23, Iranian President Pezeshkian signaled openness to diplomacy, [stating](#) that "Iran must be understood by Mr. Trump and those who seek to bully us that we are ready for dialogue and diplomacy and negotiations without accepting the language of force."
 - » Discussing the Strait of Hormuz, he stated, "We cannot let some have free access and gain their interests from the waterway, while at the same time using that waterway to impose their aggressions upon us ... to forbid us access to our own waterways."

- On September 23, Israel's Channel 12 reported that American negotiators had [dismissed](#) the Iranians' offer during indirect talks the previous day to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, stating that Iran does not control the Strait.
 - » Qatari mediators are reportedly waiting for President Trump to decide whether to hold further indirect talks with Iran during the UN General Assembly or pursue an alternative path with Iran.
- On September 23, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei [wrote](#) in a post on X that during the indirect U.S.-Iran talks on September 22, Iran shared its conditions for renewed diplomacy "in a manner that leaves no doubt or ambiguity and provides no excuses or pretexts for any party were conveyed to the American side."
 - » He reiterated that Iran's demands include "cessation of aggressive U.S. actions, including the naval blockade and economic terrorism; ending the war on all fronts; release of Iran's frozen or restricted assets; [and] acceptance of a safe shipping route in the manner agreed upon between the two coastal governments."

Lebanon

- Following a meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on September 24, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam [urged](#) their countries to develop a new relationship founded on a principle of non-interference.
 - » At the same time, Salam called on Iran to propose a new ambassador to serve Tehran's interests in Beirut as ambassador-designate Mohammad Reza Raouf Sheibani refuses to leave Lebanon despite being labeled persona non grata by the Lebanese government.

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

Strait of Hormuz

- On September 23, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) on X that as part of the ongoing maritime blockade on Iran, American forces have now redirected at least 115 commercial vessels.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- Reuters [reported](#) on September 25 that ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Gulf of Oman have reached their capacity limit. According to the report, ships leaving nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) conducted ship-to-ship transfers, with destinations for this oil including China.
 - » Greater Saudi oil exports in September have prompted a higher demand for supertankers to move crude through the Strait of Hormuz, prompting higher shipping costs, diminished availability of supertankers, and longer wait times before oil cargo reached refineries.
- Tracking data from September 24 [indicated](#) that the *Lenore*, *Tifani*, and *Majestic X* tankers U.S. forces seized earlier this year are now transiting the Atlantic Ocean and heading towards the United States.
 - » TankerTrackers reported that the three tankers are carrying a total of around six million barrels of Iranian crude oil worth approximately \$600 million.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Lebanon

- On September 25, Israeli forces [announced](#) that they fired an interceptor missile at a “suspicious aerial target” flying near troops in southern Lebanon.
- According to Israeli reporting on September 23, Hezbollah allegedly [transported](#) a variety of weapons, air defenses, and precision missiles to villages located south of the Litani River, though outside Israel’s buffer zone, in southern Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia

- On September 24, Saudi-backed forces in Yemen [announced](#) that they shot down six Houthi ballistic missiles targeting the cities of Yanbu and Taif in Saudi Arabia.
 - » Following the attack, the Houthis [claimed](#) that they targeted a “sensitive site” in Riyadh with missiles and drones, as well as Aramco facilities in Yanbu.

Yemen

- On September 24, the Yemeni government [claimed](#) that it fought off Houthi fighters attacking Hejat al-Abd, a mountain pass that serves as a critical supply route for goods entering the cities of Aden and Taiz.

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

- On September 25, Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, [threatened](#) on X that “If Iran is denied the possibility of flight and access to airport services, no country in the region will have this possibility either.”
- On September 25, Iranian Envoy to the United Nations Nasser Asadi [said](#) that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu should not have been permitted to speak at the United Nations, remarking that he is the “the main architect of this very scourge [of war].”
- On September 24, Yahya Rahim Safavi, an advisor to Iran’s Supreme Leader, [warned](#) that “since the conflict has spread from the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to the Red Sea, it is possible that, in response to more war, the front will expand even further, reaching the Indian Ocean and perhaps beyond.”
- On September 23, Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei [warned](#) that Tehran would target neighboring countries’ airports if they comply with U.S. sanctions by suspending Iranian flights.

7. International Response

- On September 25, the Colombian government [announced](#) that President Abelardo de la Espriella severed Colombia’s diplomatic relationship with Iran on September 19, accusing Tehran of maintaining connections to “narco-terrorist groups that threaten the security of the country.”
- On September 25, Iraq [suspended](#) Iranian flights to and from the cities of Sulaimaniya and Erbil after airports in Baghdad and Najaf halted operations with Iran earlier this week to comply with U.S. sanctions.
 - » The decision came after Emirati authorities [suspended](#) planned Iranian flights to the U.A.E. on September 24, adhering to U.S. sanctions.
- In response to Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, Turkey’s Defense Ministry [announced](#) on September 25 that Turkey’s Chief of General Staff General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu will visit Saudi Arabia to meet with his Saudi and Pakistani counterparts, as part of the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement.
- On September 24, French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) that France will deploy troops, as well as radar and defense systems, to help Saudi Arabia protect the port city of Yanbu without joining the conflict.

- Iranian flights to various countries have been [suspended](#) in recent days due to recently imposed U.S. sanctions on Iran's aviation industry, Newsmax reported on September 23.
 - » These include planned flights to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Oman, and Qatar, according to the Newsmax reporting.

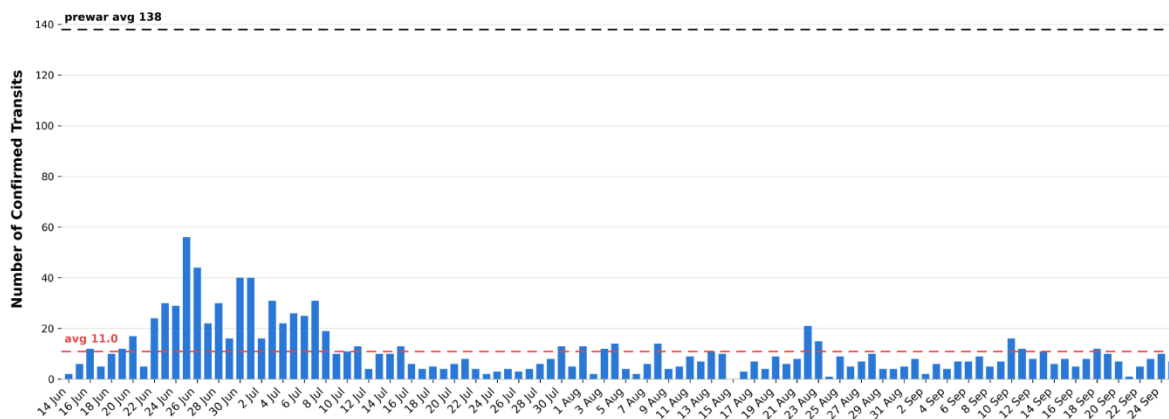
8. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [Resupply Israel to Deter Iran and Protect U.S. Forces](#), September 23, 2026
- VADM Jeff Trussler, USN (ret.) and Sarah Havdala, [The US Needs an Information-Warfare Strategy for Iran — And Beyond](#), September 21, 2026
- Jonah Brody, [The Houthis Close in on the Gulf's Oil Export Lifeline](#), September 17, 2026
- Sarah Havdala, [Iran in the Wake of Women, Life, Freedom](#), September 16, 2026
- Giran Ozcan, [The United States Cannot Afford to Abandon the Kurdistan Region](#), September 14, 2026
- 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			JINSA
Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	19	500+	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 1,229+ military killed; 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	160+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,386	12,407	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.