



Iran War Update: September 5–8, 2026

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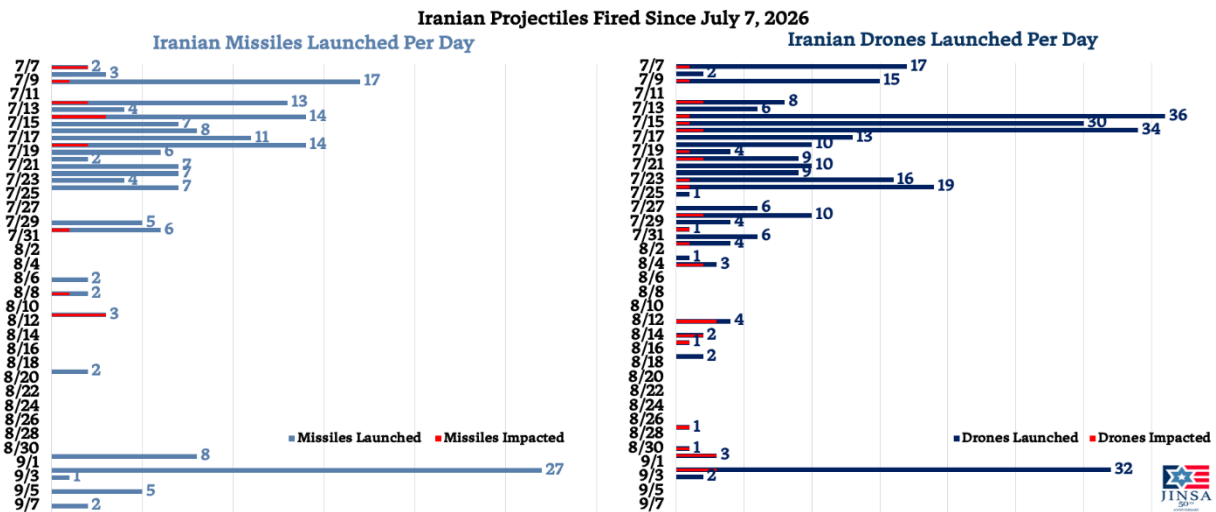
President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a now-expired Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “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 8 at 10:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 511** (7 on September 5–8)

Brent Crude Oil Price: [\\$97.65 a barrel](#) as of 9:00 am ET ([day range](#): \$96.78–99.46)

1. Overview

- On September 7, the Iran-backed Houthis [accused](#) Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes and cruise missile attacks against four Yemeni provinces, while fighting between Yemen's internationally recognized government forces and the Houthis [killed](#) at least 63 people on September 5.
- On September 5, U.S. forces [struck](#) three Iranian oil tankers, permanently disabling two vessels and destroying one, after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired missiles towards two U.S. warships, according to a statement from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).
 - » CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper wrote in a statement, “Let the message to the IRGC be clear: If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost—taking out three of yours. We will not hesitate to defend American forces, and if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet.”
- On September 4, President Trump [warned](#) once again that “We may hit Pickaxe Mountain very soon... if there is anything going on with Pickaxe,” referring to Iran's deeply-buried, undeclared nuclear facility that has not been targeted by U.S.-Israeli military operations.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In an interview with ABC News on September 7, when asked about signs that the United States and Iran will reach a nuclear agreement, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright [stated](#) that “There may not be a nuclear agreement [with Iran]. It may be simply destroying their capabilities to do it [building a nuclear weapon].”
 - He added, “An agreement may await the next administration in Iran. We simply don’t know that.”

Lebanon

- On September 6, in a statement, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [called](#) on the United States and the international community to halt Israel’s attacks in Lebanon following Israeli strikes that day targeting Hezbollah members and infrastructure.

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

Iran

- On September 5, CENTCOM [struck](#) three Iranian oil tankers after the IRGC fired missiles towards U.S. warships conducting patrols of regional waters, according to a statement from CENTCOM.
 - The retaliatory U.S. strikes “permanently disabled the IRGC crude oil carriers M/T Downy off the coast of Kharg Island and M/T Stark 1 near Jask” and “completely destroyed the unladen crude oil carrier M/T Kylo ... in the Gulf of Oman.”
 - CENTCOM stated that the three Iranian tankers form part of a “multibillion-dollar shadow network that funds the IRGC and its regional proxies.”

Lebanon

- On September 7, when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Golani Brigade’s Reconnaissance Unit was conducting scans in the area of the Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon, a Hezbollah fighter [fired](#) on the troops, lightly injuring two.
- Overnight on September 6–7, the IDF [carried out](#) strikes on a Hezbollah facility in the southern Lebanese town of Deir al-Zahrani after urging civilians to evacuate the area.
 - Lebanese media [reported](#) that the same strike wave targeted a residential building and a Hezbollah-linked vehicle in the town of Kfar Reman in southern Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of 11 people and injuring five others.

- Strikes also targeted facilities in Nabatieh and Arab Salim in southern Lebanon.
- On September 6, the IDF [bombed](#) Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, including [weapons depots and the former Ghandour Hospital](#) in Nabatieh al-Fawqa that the group used as a command center, after Hezbollah fired explosive drones at Israeli troops.
 - » According to Lebanese media, one of the strikes [resulted](#) in the deaths of three people in Nabatieh.
- Overnight on September 4–5, the IDF [targeted](#) Hezbollah fighters and their infrastructure in a wave of strikes after troops intercepted a drone heading towards the Israeli-held security zone in southern Lebanon.
 - » According to the Lebanese health ministry, the strikes [targeted](#) five locations in the country's eastern Bekaa region and areas in Tyre and Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of three people and wounding 23 others.

Yemen

- On September 7, the Iran-backed Houthis [accused](#) Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes and cruise missile attacks against Yemen's Houthi-controlled Jawf, al-Bayda, Marib, and Taiz provinces.
- On September 5, fighting between Yemen's internationally recognized government forces and the Houthis [killed](#) at least 63 people, including six civilians, according to medical and military sources cited by Agence France-Presse.
 - » The reported deaths included 26 government troops and 31 Houthi fighters. A missile strike also killed six civilians traveling by bus in Taiz.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On September 7, CENTCOM [reported](#) that U.S. forces have redirected 94 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 7, Reuters, citing Kpler data, [reported](#) that commodity vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz had fallen to its lowest level since May following U.S. and Iranian strikes on tankers, with the 10-day moving average declining to 10 ships per day.
 - » Only two vessels transited the strait on September 5 and six on September 6, with most using the Iranian-designated route.
- On September 6, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright [told](#) ABC News that the seven-day average for oil passing through the Strait of Hormuz is "a little over nine million barrels a day." He added that, when combined with the output via Saudi Arabian and Emirati pipelines, the total flow out of the region is "more like 13, 14 million barrels a day."

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Iraq

- On September 7, two Iranian missiles [targeted](#) a civilian camp belonging to the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan near Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan. No casualties were reported.

Lebanon

- On September 7, the IDF [announced](#) that overnight, Hezbollah fired two explosive drones at Israeli soldiers in the Ali Taher Ridge area in southern Lebanon, marking the third Hezbollah attack on Israeli troops in a week.

- » The announcement comes after Hezbollah [launched](#) two explosive drones at Israeli forces in the Ali Taher Ridge area in the early morning hours of September 6, with the troops intercepting one of the drones.
- » According to the IDF, the attacks did not result in any Israeli casualties.

Maritime

- On September 5, CENTCOM [stated](#) that Iran had targeted a U.S. aircraft carrier and guided-missile destroyer that were conducting patrols in regional waters, stating that the two vessels “successfully evaded multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks.”
- » That day, the IRGC’s Navy [claimed](#) that it had targeted three oil tankers transiting an “unauthorized route” in the Strait of Hormuz and three U.S. vessels elsewhere.

Saudi Arabia

- On September 8, the Saudi energy ministry [announced](#) that Houthi attacks have sparked fires at several energy facilities in southern Saudi Arabia, prompting operational suspensions at some locations.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On September 8, *Iran International* [reported](#) that Iran has deployed security forces near gas stations and on streets across the country as gas prices increased.
- On September 8, Iran’s Tasnim News Agency [announced](#) that a “terrorist attack” in the Sistan-Baluchistan province resulted in the death of local Basij paramilitary commander, Abdolraouf Eshaghi.
- On September 5, the value of Iran’s currency [sank](#) to a record low, with 2.25 million Iranian rials equaling 1 U.S. dollar.

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

- On September 8, Iranian state media [claimed](#) without evidence that Iran had developed and tested an undisclosed improvement in missile capabilities by attacking a U.S. ship, while adding that Iran had a new doctrine that it “will take action against any threat, even before it is carried out.”
- Following South Korea announcing that it was considering sending forces to help secure the Strait of Hormuz, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghei [warned](#) on September 7 that “any military deployment or participation in operations by other countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz can only be regarded as direct support for the party responsible for that aggression and will have serious consequences.”
- On September 6, Baghei [stated](#) that “in the coming days, a prohibited zone will be announced outside the Strait of Hormuz. This zone will start from the US Navy’s blockade line and include areas of the Persian Gulf. Any ship entering this new zone will be placed on the sanctions list.”
- On September 6, Iranian Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf [claimed](#) that “from now on, any attack against Iran’s interests and security will receive a faster, heavier and more painful response.”
- On September 5, Iran’s Khatam al-Anbiya central command [announced](#) that “The US terrorist army is warned that if the evil actions, insecurity and harassment of Iranian ships and the naval blockade of Iran continue, the strikes by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against US military vessels in the region will be more severe than before and there is a possibility of their expansion.”

8. International Response

- On September 8, following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, Spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, [stated](#) that the coalition “will take all necessary operational measures to deter the terrorist Houthi militia with utmost resolve.”
- On September 8, the United Kingdom [introduced](#) new legislation intended to enforce heavy sanctions on Iran, particularly disrupting Iranian access to Britain’s financial system and banning a wider range of trade with Tehran.
- As the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany reportedly prepare to submit a resolution referring Iran to the United Nations Security Council this week for violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, [stated](#) on September 7 that Tehran providing IAEA access to nuclear sites would lead to “positive repercussions.”
 - » The IAEA has not had access to Iranian nuclear sites since the start of the 12-Day War in June 2025.
 - » Grossi added that “these issues are not going to disappear until we address them, until we have the necessary access, until we can return.”

9. 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

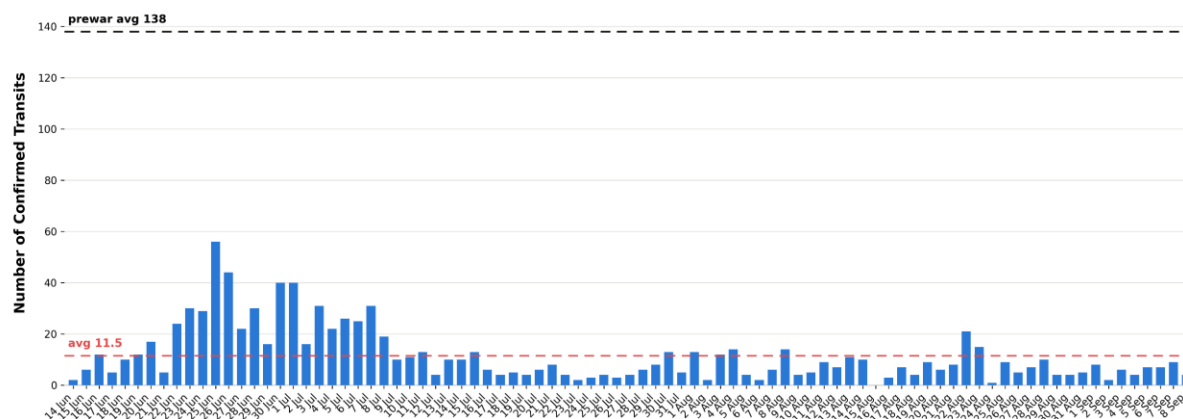
Estimated Casualties of Iran War Operations



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	3,720+	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	4,362	12,378	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.

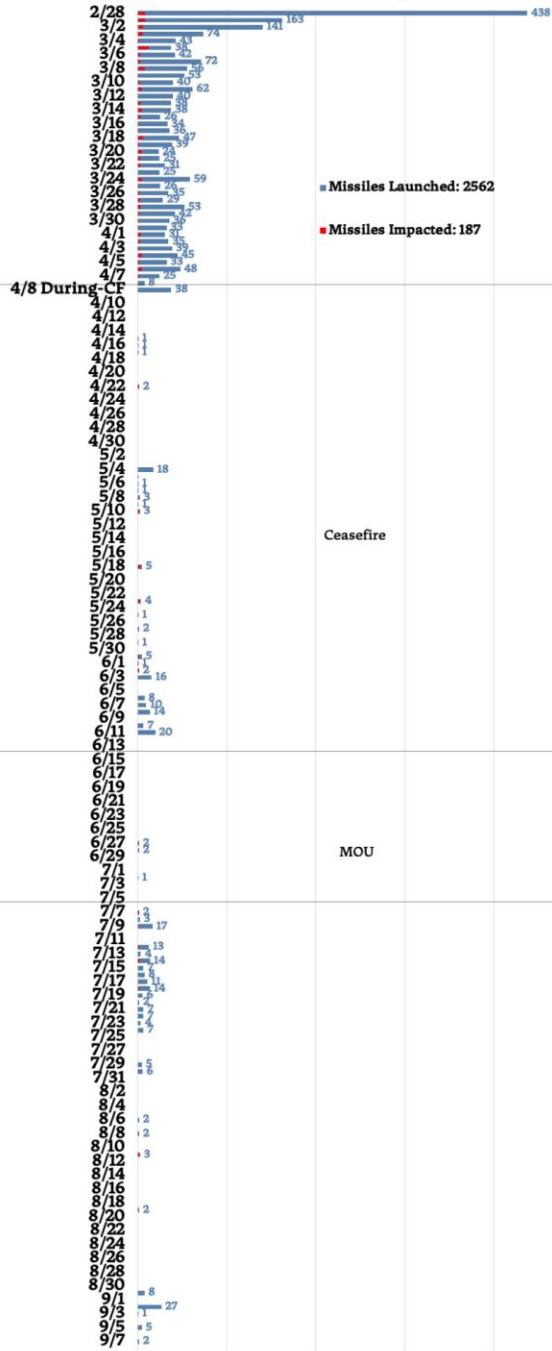
Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

