



Iran War Update: October 12–14, 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 October 14 at 10:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 590** (12 on October 11–14)

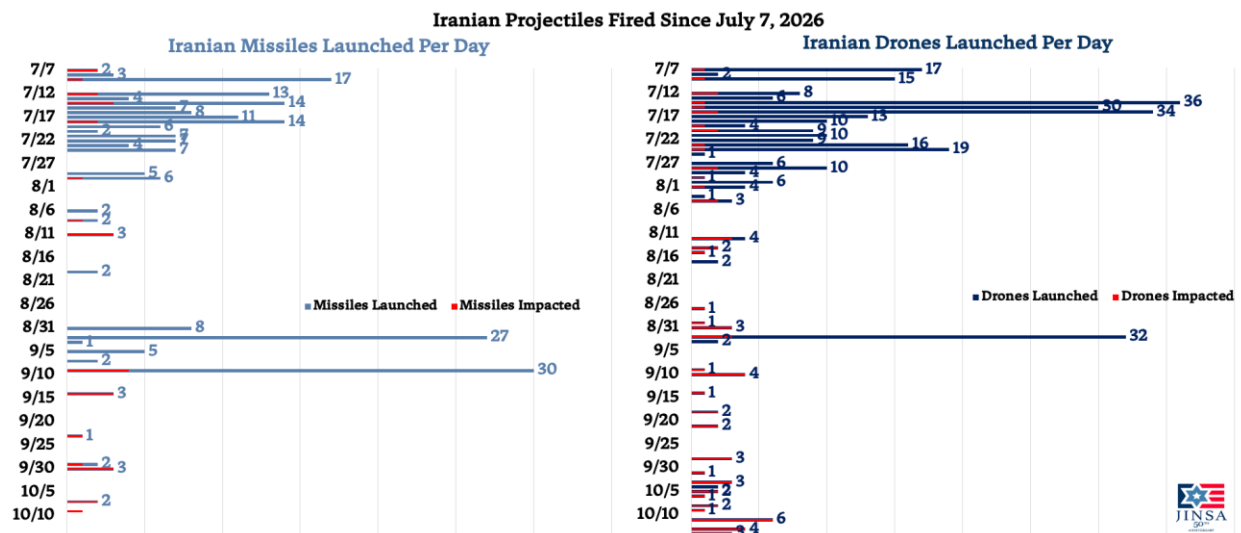
Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$106.96 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$102.33–106.99)

1. Overview

- Iran has escalated its campaign against commercial shipping, hitting six ships on October 11—the most it struck in a single day since the war began—and six more vessels on October 13–14.
- On October 13, President Donald Trump [remarked](#) at a campaign rally that Iran has “got no ships, they got no nothing, they got no leaders, even, that’s the problem,” adding that the United States “might have gone too far” by assassinating Iran’s leaders because now it does not “know who the hell we’re dealing with.”
 - » President Trump also [stated](#), “Wait until you see what we do to Iran. We’re going to do a number [on Iran]. ... We’ve had it.”
 - » That day, President Trump also [told](#) reporters outside the White House that Iran has “no economy. They have 300% inflation. They have no money. They’re not paying their troops. They’re not paying anybody,” and “we’ll make a decision on Iran very soon.”
- On October 13, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social, “The Houthis are behaving very badly. I thought they learned their lesson a year ago when we bombed the HELL out of them and, at their request, stopped.”
 - » He added, “They’ve been silent for a long time, but now they’ve emerged again, probably at the behest of Iran, which is a Failing Nation, with No Navy, No Airforce, the World’s Worst Economy, and 301% Inflation, in a very nasty way, hitting Saudi Arabia, and purposefully trying to drive up Oil Prices, probably prior to the U.S. Elections — NOT NICE.”
- On October 13, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that he does not believe China or Russia are helping Iran, claiming, “If they are, it’s at a very low level, but I don’t believe they

are at all. They have too much to lose, and we would know about it, and know about it very fast!"

- On October 13, Israel's Channel 12 reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had urged President Trump during a phone call last week to [restart](#) the fighting with Iran before Israel's elections on October 27 and U.S. midterm elections the week afterward.
 - » President Trump had publicly stated he would not renew fighting with Iran before the midterm elections, and Prime Minister Netanyahu's office denied the report.
- On October 13, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#), citing research by British-based Conflict Armament Research, that Yemen's Houthis are attempting to develop a version of Iran's Kheibar Shekan precision-guided ballistic missile using components supplied from China.
 - » The missile would reportedly have a range of approximately 1,900 miles, allowing the Houthis to have greater reach to target Israel and Saudi Arabia.
- On October 12, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#), based on satellite images, that Iran is fortifying its nuclear sites and border areas in preparation for strikes after the U.S. midterm elections in November.
 - » The report also indicated Iran is preparing the home front for another round of fighting by sending paramilitaries to read war stories to kindergarteners and train civilians to use anti-aircraft weapons.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Lebanon

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun spoke by phone on October 13. The two [discussed](#) the “need to support diplomatic solutions to end conflicts in the region,” according to a Lebanese readout.

Saudi Arabia

- On October 14, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al Zaidi [traveled](#) to Riyadh to meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, where the two leaders discussed efforts to enhance regional security and stability following several Houthi attacks targeting the kingdom.
- Saudi Arabia still plans to hold a major international investment conference at the end of the month, AFP [reported](#) on October 14.

- » AFP reported that Saudi Arabia is preparing to change aspects of the conference, scheduled for October 26-29, including by creating an option for participants to attend virtually.
- » Saudi Arabia is also working to ensure participants can “fly by private jet to Dhahran airport in eastern Saudi Arabia before travelling by road to Riyadh” to reduce security risks, per AFP.

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

Yemen

- On October 13, the Saudi-led coalition [announced](#) that its forces struck facilities belonging to a Yemeni oil company in Sanaa, Saada, and Dhamar in the country’s west after issuing evacuation warnings for those areas.
 - » According to Turki al-Maliki, the coalition’s spokesman, the Houthis used these facilities to “supply the war effort.”
 - » The Houthis’ health ministry also [announced](#) that evening that an alleged Saudi strike on an oil facility in Hodeidah province killed two people.
- On October 13, the Houthis’ al-Masirah media [accused](#) Saudi Arabia of carrying out two airstrikes on Kamaran—an island under Houthi control in the Red Sea—one airstrike on Qanawis district near Hodeidah port, and several strikes on Yemen’s Jawf province.
 - » That same day, the Houthis claimed to have intercepted a Saudi drone flying over the rebel-held Saada province.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On October 13, Reuters [reported](#), citing data from the energy intelligence firm Vortexa, that Iran’s seaborne crude exports had fallen to zero in the second week of September and remained there as of October 5 due to the U.S. naval blockade.
 - » Vortexa estimated that 83 million barrels of Iranian crude remained aboard tankers, including 43 million barrels trapped west of the Strait of Hormuz, while Iranian liquefied petroleum gas exports had fallen 48 percent month-on-month.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- On October 14, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [claimed](#) that a cargo ship carrying 2,500 containers struck a naval mine and sank in the Strait of Hormuz after using a shipping route not approved by Tehran.
 - » The claim, which would mark the first reported sinking of a vessel by a naval mine during the war, remains unverified, with no independent report corroborating the incident.
- On October 14, two Iranian officials [told](#) Reuters that Iran has changed its tactics for attacking ships in the Strait of Hormuz, including increasing the tempo of attacks; shifting the type of attack; and using spotters in small boats to compensate for the loss of Iranian radars in airstrikes.
 - » The officials also said that Iran plans to expand the geographic scope of the attacks to the Gulf of Oman and beyond.
 - » Reuters reported that the Iranian regime’s increased maritime aggression aims, in part, to “influence the outcome of the [U.S. midterm election] vote.”

- On October 13, the United Kingdom Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center reported four separate attacks against commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz involving unidentified projectiles.
 - » [Three container ships](#) and a [tanker](#) were struck. One of the container ships, a 50,000-ton vessel, was transiting inbound through the Strait, and another, a 19,000-ton vessel, was transiting outbound. Both ships sustained minor damage but continued their voyages without reported casualties.
- On October 12, the Institute for the Study of War [assessed](#) that Iran appeared to be targeting commercial vessels conducting ship-to-ship oil transfers in and around the Strait of Hormuz to disrupt energy shipments, while increasing threats against vessels using routes not approved by Tehran.

Saudi Arabia

- On October 14, the Houthis [claimed](#) that their forces fired at King Khalid International Airport, an Aramco refinery in Riyadh, and Aramco sites in Dhahran.
 - » They also declared that they would continue striking the kingdom's oil infrastructure and airports in the near future.
 - » Reuters also [reported](#) the same day that an attack on the kingdom's Aramco headquarters in Dhahran on October 13 sparked a major fire and resulted in extensive damage to the building.
- On October 14, Saudi officials [announced](#) that their forces intercepted two Houthi missiles over the capital city of Riyadh, with falling debris injuring four people and damaging 15 homes.
- On October 13, the Saudi-led coalition [intercepted](#) three Houthi drones flying north of Riyadh.
- On the evening of October 12, Saudi-led coalition forces [announced](#) they shot down a Houthi ballistic missile targeting Riyadh.

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

- On October 13, Hezbollah Executive Council head Ali Daamouh announced that the group would pay Lebanese families left homeless from the war with Israel.
 - » According to Daamouh, Hezbollah would pay families who were living in Beirut and the city's southern suburbs—Hezbollah strongholds—\$14,000, while families who lost their homes in other areas of Lebanon will receive \$12,000.
 - » The announcement follows an October 7 Reuters report in which Hezbollah allegedly [received](#) \$200 million from Iran to fund these re-housing efforts.
- On October 13, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree [posted](#) to X, writing "The Yemeni Armed Forces warn the Saudi enemy that any targeting of the capital, Sanaa, will be met with a tough and painful response in the enemy's capital of Riyadh."

7. International Response

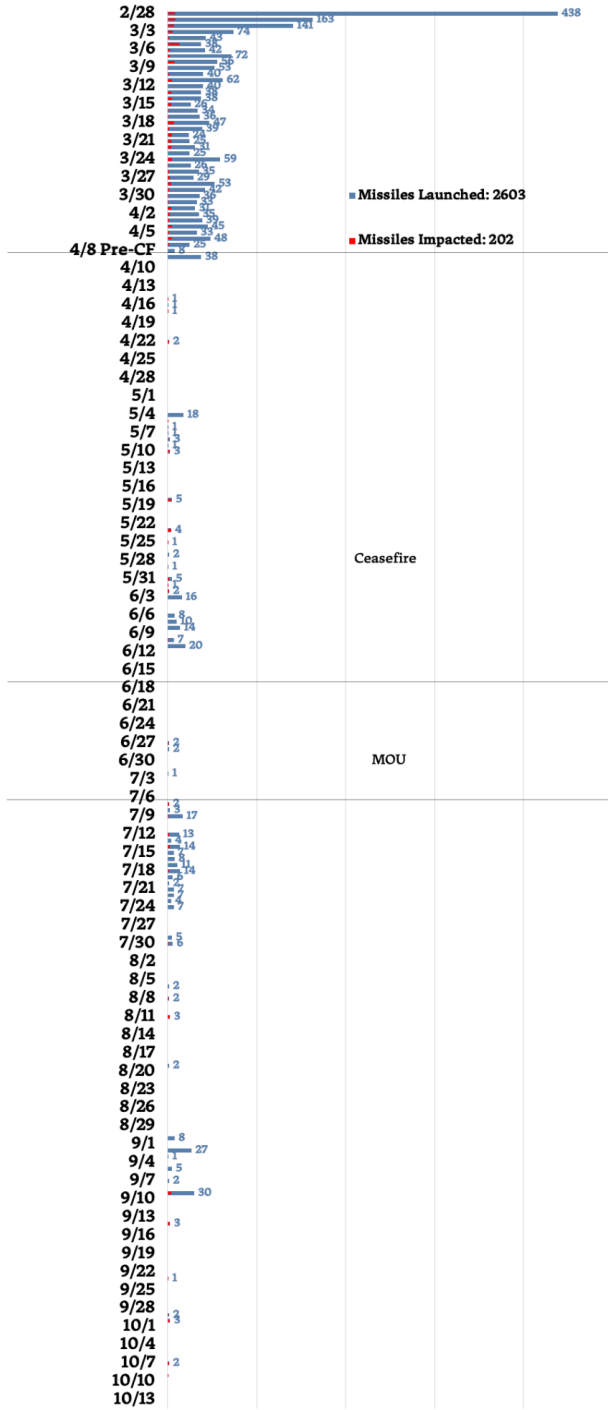
- On October 14, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva [warned](#) of economic consequences from ongoing fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis, saying that "The Saudi economy is important for the region and the world, and in that sense, these developments have potentially negative spillovers for everybody, everywhere."

8. JINSA Resources

- Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.), LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), LtGen Sam Mundy, USMC (ret.), and MajGen Robert Sofge, USMC (ret.), “[How to Keep the Houthis Out of the Red Sea](#),” *The National Interest*, October 5, 2026
- 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

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

