



Iran War Update: October 27–28, 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 28 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 604** (0 on October 27–28)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$115.27 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$114.11–116.35)

1. Overview

- *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on October 28 that the United States warned several Gulf states to be ready for a brief, intensive military campaign against Iran that would be launched after the U.S. midterm elections.
 - » *The Journal* also reported that the United States is deploying another Patriot air defense system to Israel from Texas, citing flight data and two officials familiar with the matter.
 - » Another aircraft carrier strike group and Marine expeditionary unit are also on track to arrive in the Middle East next month.
 - » U.S. officials told *The Journal* that American forces in the Middle East are replenishing munitions stocks and fighter aircraft are being readied for strikes.
- On October 27, President Donald Trump [stated](#) that the Iran war will end “whenever I want it to end.”
 - » He remarked that it “would be very quick, but we have to have an end properly,” which would involve a “total statement” that Tehran would never gain a nuclear weapon.
- Reuters [reported](#) on October 27 that Iran war expenses reached over \$47 billion, with over \$29 billion needed to replenish munitions expended in the conflict and another more than \$6 billion required to replenish military equipment and “platform losses,” citing data from the Pentagon.
 - » This total does not clearly include the cost of repairing damaged American bases in the region.
 - » Previously, in July, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth estimated war costs at \$37.5 billion.

- The combination of the war, naval blockade, and sanctions have caused Iran's currency, the rial, to [lose](#) more than half its value in the past year, according to Reuters reporting from October 28.
 - » In addition, Reuters reported that overall Iranian consumer prices have risen by over 90 percent year-on-year; housing and utilities costs have risen by 38 percent year-on-year; and inflation now exceeds 73 percent.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On October 28, Reuters [reported](#), citing an official briefed on negotiations, that Qatari mediators presented Iran with a new proposal to end the war during talks in Tehran on October 25, with an Iranian response expected by the end of the week.
 - » A senior Iranian official subsequently [denied](#) receiving a new peace proposal, describing Qatar's ideas as "unacceptable" and insisting that Tehran would show no flexibility on the nuclear issue.

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

Yemen

- On October 27, renewed fighting between Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis and Saudi-backed government forces near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait reportedly [killed](#) at least 97 combatants, including 63 Houthi operatives and 34 pro-government troops.
 - » The Houthis [claimed](#) to have repelled a Saudi-backed offensive using ballistic missiles and heavy weapons, while Houthi military sources reported dozens of Saudi airstrikes targeting Mayyun Island, Dhubab, and Mocha. Pro-government forces claimed to have made territorial gains amid the fighting.
 - » Additionally, Yemen's government forces [insisted](#) they launched around 1,382 strikes against Houthi targets on October 27, including Houthi fighters, their weaponry, and military vehicles.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Iraq

- On October 27, *Al Arabiya* [reported](#) that air defenses at the American embassy in Baghdad intercepted two drones, but that the [origin](#) of the projectiles is unknown.

Maritime

- On October 28, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [announced](#) that several sources reported seeing "suspicious small craft operating in the vicinity of merchant vessels" in the Gulf of Aden.
 - » According to one of the reports UKMTO received, the incident involved "a green and blue boat with two ladders and one hook with 9 persons onboard."
 - » UKMTO has yet to confirm whether the Houthis or pirates are responsible for the incident.
- On October 27, the Iranian Navy's public relations office [announced](#) that "a rogue oil tanker that switched off its tracking systems" caught fire and suffered damage after striking naval mines while "attempting to pass through a prohibited and unsafe area east of the Strait of Hormuz."

- » The office added that “the Strait of Hormuz is unsafe and closed to rogue ships and vessels attempting to pass through without coordination.”
- On October 26, UKMTO [announced](#) that several third-parties reported that a vessel 63 nautical miles southeast of Al-Faw, Iraq, was on fire.

Outside the Middle East

- On October 27, the United Kingdom’s Crown Prosecution Service [announced](#) that it charged two British nationals for their suspected role in planning a terror attack on Britain’s RAF Fairford Air Base—which hosted U.S. Air Force B-1 and B-52 strategic bombers during Operation Epic Fury—on behalf of Iranian agents.

Saudi Arabia

- On October 27, the Houthis [announced](#) that one of their ballistic missiles struck Saudi Arabia’s Ras Tanura refinery, sparking fires at the facility.
 - » That same day, the Houthis [claimed](#) to have fired ballistic missiles that struck two military transport aircraft at King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait and Najran Airport, and announced that their forces successfully attacked Abha International Airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia.
- On October 27, Yemen’s Saudi-led coalition [shot down](#) three Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Region.
- On October 26, the Saudi-led coalition [shot down](#) three drones flying over Riyadh and southern Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

- On October 28, an unnamed Aden police official [announced](#) that “a Houthi missile targeted the area under Saudi forces’ control inside the perimeter of Aden airport,” reportedly for the second time that day.
 - » The announcement came after Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree [urged](#) occupants to leave the airport in Aden “due to the presence of a military cargo plane belonging to the Saudi enemy transporting weapons to kill the sons of the Yemeni people.”
- On October 27, Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Col. Majed Al-Nuzaili [accused](#) Houthi fighters of mutilating the bodies of government troops.
 - » According to Al-Nuzaili’s X account, a hospital in Taiz received the bodies of troops who were burned by liquid chemicals, had their limbs broken, and faces wounded.

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

- On October 28, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [posted](#) on X that the “Devastating impact on int’l markets of any Israel-instigated military misadventure in Persian Gulf region remains [a] major concern for both gas suppliers and consumers.”
- On October 27, Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Dr. Mohsen Rezaee [posted](#) on X, “America has not brought security to any country in the region, and Washington’s inability to provide security guarantees has become evident.”
 - » He added, “Security in West Asia must originate from within the region itself, and any foreign intervention must be prevented.”
- On October 27, Houthi political bureau member Mohammed Ali al-Houthi [announced](#) that Egypt’s recent declaration of support for Saudi Arabia constitutes the country declaring war against Yemen.”

6. International Response

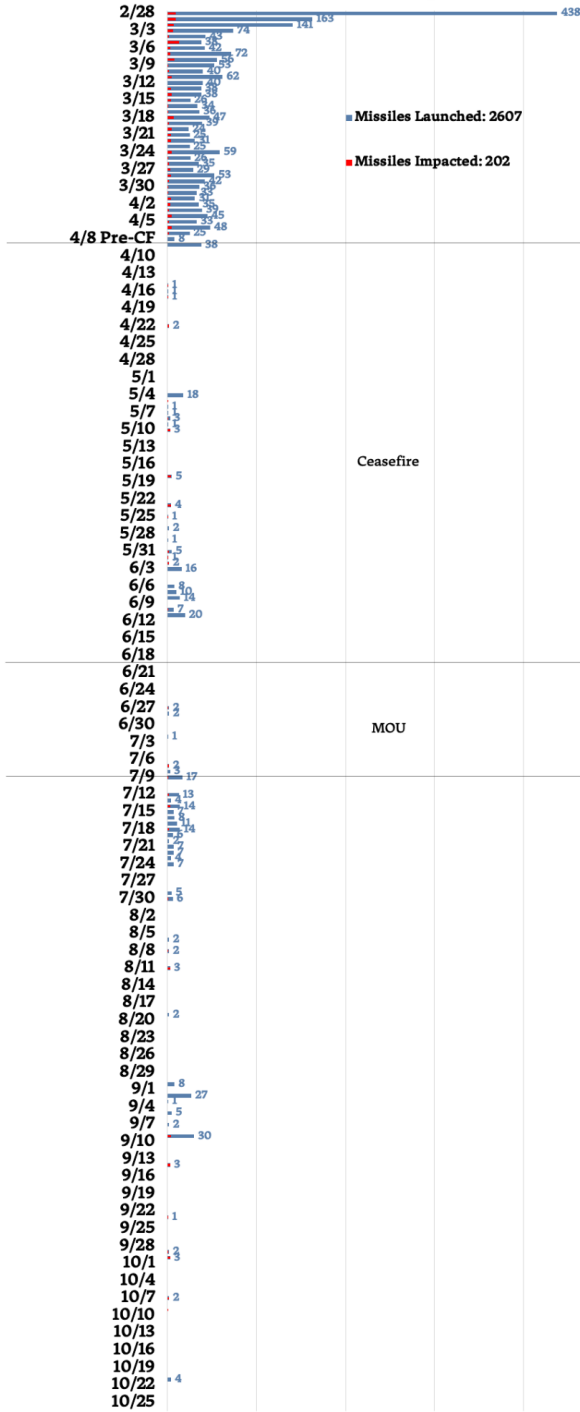
- On October 28, the Associated Press [reported](#) that Russian government and military satellites are helping the Iran-backed Houthis accurately target sites in Saudi Arabia.
 - » According to the Associated Press, citing a private geospatial company's investigation of roughly 40 attacks on Saudi Arabia, there is "a 100 percent match between [Russian] satellite activities and [Houthi] strikes."
 - » The Associated Press reported that Russian satellite information is also being used by Iranian proxies in Iraq to target Saudi energy infrastructure, including the East-West Pipeline.
- On October 28, Russia's state nuclear company, Rosatom, announced that it would [increase](#) the number of workers at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant to 200 personnel.
 - » Rosatom had evacuated hundreds of personnel from the facility after the start of the war in February.
- On October 27, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi [claimed](#) during a United Nations Security Council meeting that "since June 2025, we have not identified any activity to repair or reconstruct any of the facilities damaged in the military attacks of 2025 and 2026."
 - » However, during the meeting, Grossi also called on Iran to grant IAEA inspectors access to the country's nuclear sites as it has not verified Tehran's highly enriched uranium stockpile since the 12-Day War in June 2025.
 - » Grossi invited Tehran to cooperate with the IAEA "without any further delay to clarify outstanding safeguards questions and to give the IAEA the information and access the agency requires, so that it can verify all relevant facilities and material, as is Iran's legal obligation."
- On October 27, Presidents Vladimir Putin and Masoud Pezeshkian [met](#) at the Gas Exporting Countries Forum Summit in Moscow, where they "discussed expanding political, economic, trade and energy cooperation, including joint projects in the oil and gas sectors," according to a [readout](#) from the Iranian government.
- On October 26, Egypt's parliament [authorized](#) President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to take "all necessary measures" to support Saudi Arabia's defense against Yemen's Houthis.
- On October 26, a Kuwaiti court [handed](#) the death sentence to three men accused of espionage for Iran and joining Hezbollah, for planning to assassinate Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

7. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [Iran Escalates Before U.S. Midterm Elections](#), October 19, 2026
- LtGen Michael Groen, USMC (ret.) and Sarah Havdala, "[Iranian Cyber Operations](#)," *RealClearDefense*, October 17, 2026
- John Hannah and Rena Gabber, "[Iran 'Blew the Hell Out of Bahrain' — And Trump's Gulf Strategy With It.](#)" *The Washington Examiner*, October 12, 2026
- 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

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War

Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

