



Iran War Update: October 3–5, 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 5 at 10:45 am ET.

Brent Crude Oil Price: [\\$102.12 a barrel](#) as of 9:00 am ET ([day range](#): \$100.65 –\$103.40).

1. Overview

- *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) on October 5 that, following an investigation into a foiled attack at the British Royal Air Force's Fairford base, the U.S. Air Force has redeployed all of its bombers that were stationed at the base back to the United States.
- On October 4, Saudi-backed forces from Yemen's internationally recognized government [initiated](#) a counteroffensive against the Houthis in Yemen, seeking to push back the Houthis' territorial gains and recover control of territory on Yemen's Red Sea coast near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
 - » The United States is supplying intelligence and targeting support, but is not participating in direct combat against the Houthis.
- On October 2, when asked by the press about his next move in Iran, President Donald Trump [stated](#), “If I told you, you would have a major story.” He added, “But you will see. It is working out very well. Iran is not doing well.”
- On October 2, senior Trump administration officials [met](#) at Camp David for hours to discuss the war in Iran and the conflict between the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, according to *Axios* reporting.
 - » The meeting was chaired by Vice President JD Vance and included “Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, White House envoy Steve Witkoff, CIA director John Ratcliffe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.”

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- According to reporting from *The Times of Israel* on October 4, after the Department of State ordered Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Iran's delegation to the United Nations

General Assembly to leave early last week, two members of the Iranian delegation [remained](#) in New York, prompting them to be “kicked out” of the United States.

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

Iran

- On October 4, *Fars News Agency*, affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), [reported](#) that multiple explosions that seemed to be occurring offshore were heard at Iran’s Qeshm Island and Sirik, an Iranian city near the coast.

Strait of Hormuz

- On October 4, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [described](#) the U.S. blockade of the Strait of Hormuz as “ironclad,” while adding Iran had “literally gotten nothing through” as commercial traffic through the Strait recovered to near pre-war levels.
 - » Hegseth warned that President Trump retained “all the options he needs on the table” if Iran continued to challenge U.S. control of the Strait and reiterated that the United States would not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon.

Yemen

- On October 5, Yemen’s Saudi-backed, internationally recognized government (IRG) [announced](#) that its forces have launched a “strategic offensive” against Houthi fighters to [re-claim](#) the capital city of Sanaa, as well as key areas around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
 - » With Saudi air support, IRG forces have [captured](#) strategic locations near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, including a significant portion of Dhubab district that overlooks the waterway.
 - » The Operation, dubbed “Yemen’s Dawn,” includes [100 Saudi-coalition warplanes](#) and [tens of thousands of Yemeni ground troops](#), according to military sources.
 - » Yemeni President Rashad al-Alimi [announced](#) the plan on October 4, claiming that IRG forces have begun conducting military operations to seize Houthi strongholds throughout Yemen, as well as “extend the authority of the state and its institutions across the entire national territory.”
- On October 3, the Houthis [claimed](#) that “Saudi enemy aircraft” carried out 26 strikes on the group’s stronghold in Sanaa.
 - » The strikes come after Saudi forces struck the capital city for the first time in several years on October 1.
 - » Amid reports of several loud explosions throughout the capital on October 3, Houthi media [specified](#) that a missile struck a telecommunications network in the country’s Saada governorate.
- On October 2, the Houthis [reported](#) that over the past day, Saudi forces carried out 94 strikes against the group’s strongholds throughout Yemen, contributing to a total of 1,350 Saudi strikes on Houthi positions since hostilities on the Arabian Peninsula resumed in July.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On October 5, maritime tracking data from Kpler [showed](#) that Middle Eastern oil exports—excluding those from Iran—exceeded pre-war levels for the first time since the war began, with the weekly average rising above 18 million barrels per day.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Maritime

- In total, at least eight energy tankers have been targeted in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz since September 28, *The New York Times* [reported](#) on October 5.
- On October 5, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) [reported](#) that Iran's IRGC ordered a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz to reverse course or risk being struck, adding that the vessel complied with the instructions. The incident occurred off Oman's coast, approximately 11 nautical miles away from Khasab. It is unclear if the incident occurred during a designated U.S. naval escort window.
- On October 4, the UKMTO [reported](#) that a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz was struck by a projectile, causing damage to the engine room. The date of the attack and the perpetrator are unclear. The ship's crew has been reported as safe following the attack.
- On October 3, the UKMTO [reported](#) that a crude oil tanker 4 nautical miles east of Oman was struck by an unknown projectile. The ship's crew has been reported safe following the attack.
- On October 2, the UKMTO [reported](#) that a tanker was hit by an unknown projectile while exiting the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a small fire and blackout but no casualties.

Outside the Middle East

- On October 3, the British Counter Terrorism Policing agency reported that a dual British-Iranian citizen suspected of planning a terrorist attack on the RAF Fairford Airbase was [re-leased](#) on bail.
- The UK police [reported](#) on October 2 that two Iranian men were arrested and charged with planning a terrorist attack targeting the Manchester Jewish Community on the eve of Yom Kippur.
 - » According to the statement, "It is alleged that the two men were in contact with an overseas third-party who may be in Iran in relation to the plot."

Saudi Arabia

- On October 5, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis [claimed](#) to have launched ballistic missiles and drones at Saudi Aramco facilities in Riyadh and Khurais in response to 50 Saudi-led air and missile strikes in Yemen over the previous 12 hours. Saudi Arabia did not immediately confirm the attacks.
- On October 5, the Houthis [warned](#) that Saudi airspace would remain unsafe for commercial airlines as long as what they called Saudi "aggression" continued.
- On October 3, the Houthis [claimed](#) that their forces successfully struck a Saudi Aramco oil facility in Riyadh during a drone and ballistic missile attack.
 - » While Saudi officials did not confirm the attack, a witness [reported](#) seeing fire and smoke near the facility. *Bloomberg* [reported](#) on October 5 that Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline, which is in the vicinity of the attack, is operating normally.
- On October 3, Saudi officials announced that one person in the country's Ahad Rafidah governorate sustained injuries after coming in contact with shrapnel from an intercepted
- On October 2, Saudi-backed forces [intercepted](#) three Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Khamis Mushait in southern Saudi Arabia.
 - » Saudi officials later [announced](#) that an individual in the country's Ahad Rafidah governorate sustained injuries after coming in contact with the shrapnel from one of the intercepted missiles.

Yemen

- On October 4, the Houthis [seized](#) a key supply route linking the Yemeni government-held city of Taiz with the country's de facto capital, Aden, according to Yemeni security and military sources cited by Agence France-Presse.
 - » Government forces retained control of Taiz itself, while fighting continued around the newly seized route.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On October 4, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad [resigned](#) due to personal reasons and was replaced on an acting basis by National Iranian Oil Company CEO Hamid Bovard, according to state media.
- On October 3, Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei [acknowledged](#) that the country's economy is quickly collapsing amid heavy international sanctions and the U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports.

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

- On October 5, Yemen's Houthi-run maritime coordination body [warned](#) airlines that Saudi airspace would be unsafe so long as Saudi Arabia's "aggression" is ongoing.
- On October 4, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [stated](#) that "If our enemies again choose the path of military confrontation, our response will be stronger than before, and we will defend ourselves with even more force."
 - » However, he added that "There is no military solution, nor any solution based on new sanctions."
- On October 4, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf [said](#) Tehran would not reopen the Strait of Hormuz until the United States met Iran's seven conditions under the June Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.
 - » Iran's conditions include the United States ending its naval blockade; releasing frozen Iranian assets; removing oil sanctions; halting military action against Iran and its regional allies; withdrawing U.S. forces from areas around Iran; and paying compensation to Iran for war damages.
- On October 4, Iran's Army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia [told](#) Iran's IRGC-linked *Fars News Agency*, "During this war, we concluded that we absolutely must increase the range of our missiles, and we have now moved in that direction."

8. International Response

- On October 5, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser [warned](#) that replenishing global crude oil and fuel inventories depleted during the Iran war could take up to two years, even if the Strait of Hormuz fully reopens.
- On October 2, the G7 bloc—the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom—agreed to "release 100 million barrels of diesel and crude oil from strategic stockpiles over the coming four months" to [offset](#) rising oil prices stemming from the Iran war, the *New York Times* reported that day.
- On October 2, Iraq [authorized](#) Iranian airlines to operate up to 40 daily flights to and from Iraq's Najaf International Airport following a suspension prompted by U.S. sanctions, while continuing to prohibit flights by U.S.-sanctioned Mahan Air.

9. 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