



Iran War Update: October 8–9, 2026

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

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 9 at 9:45 am ET.

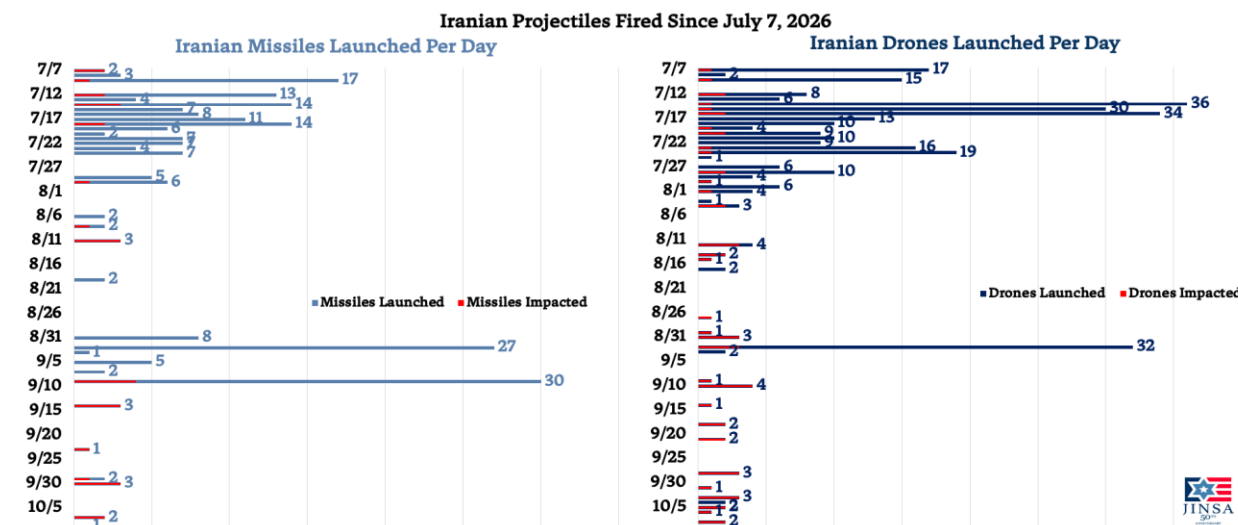
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 576** (4 on October 7–9)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **[\\$103.25 a barrel](#)** as of **9:00 am ET** ([day range](#): \$102.33–104.09)

1. Overview

- Iran has escalated its projectile fire against shipping with 11 attacks since October 3, including an attack [off the coast](#) of Qatar, its first attack in the past month that occurred away from the Strait of Hormuz.
- On October 9, *The Washington Post* [reported](#) that ChatGPT users in Iran mounted a campaign to place roughly 100 fake AI-generated articles in 20 media outlets, such as *Daily Kos* and *Middle East Monitor*, with several pieces criticizing the war with Iran and its impact on Americans.
- On October 8, President Donald Trump [posted](#) to Truth Social that the United States was engaged in “productive discussions” with Iran over ending the war and pledged the U.S. military would not “be attacking Iran at any time prior to the midterm elections” on November 3. Despite the promise of no military action, he added that the naval blockade on Iran “will remain in full force and effect,” with oil “flowing in Record Numbers of Barrels [sic].”
- On October 7, *Axios* [reported](#), citing U.S. officials, that the Pentagon had instructed the military to complete preparations for a potential resumption of operations against Iran, including possible strikes targeting nuclear facilities, infrastructure, and energy sites.
 - » *The Atlantic* separately [reported](#) that the White House had requested plans for renewed strikes, potentially before the November midterm elections.
 - » In addition, *The New York Times* [reported](#) the following day that the Trump administration is considering a three-day intensive campaign targeting Iranian drone and missile facilities, as well as energy and military leadership sites.

- However, according to the *Times*, U.S. military leaders are concerned “about the increasing difficulty of stopping Iranian attacks against bases where American troops are stationed, and energy facilities and other civilian infrastructure in the region.”
- On October 7, Houthi projectile attacks [targeting](#) two of Saudi Arabia’s international airports—one in the capital city of Riyadh and the other in southern Abha—killed three people and wounded 36 others.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On October 9, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [said](#) Tehran had revised its proposals for negotiations with the United States and was prepared to finalize them through intermediaries, following an exchange of proposals between the two countries.
 - » Speaking during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pezeshkian accused Washington of repeatedly undermining diplomatic efforts through renewed military attacks, stating, “Every time we hold talks with the U.S., they attack again.”
- On October 8, Atomic Energy Organization of Iran chief Mohammad Eslami [said](#) Tehran would neither abandon uranium enrichment nor surrender its uranium stockpile, describing enrichment as an “inseparable part” of Iran’s nuclear program and dismissing renewed U.S. threats against its nuclear facilities.

Lebanon

- On October 8, a Humvee carrying Israeli troops [overturned](#) in southern Lebanon, killing one soldier and injuring three others.

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

Iran

- On October 8, the Treasury Department [imposed](#) new sanctions under Operations Economic Outcast targeting individuals, networks, and 17 vessels involved in transporting Iranian crude oil, petroleum products, and petrochemicals.

Yemen

- On October 9, Saudi Ambassador to Yemen Mohammed Al-Jaber [wrote](#) in an X post that “Bab al-Mandab is now free of remaining Houthi forces,” following operations by Saudi-backed forces in Yemen to reclaim territory from the group.

- On October 9, Saudi-led coalition forces in Yemen [destroyed](#) three Houthi missile launch platforms, according to the coalition's spokesperson.
- On October 9, Pakistan's foreign ministry [announced](#) that Pakistan has deployed a "substantial" number of its forces to Saudi Arabia to help defend against Houthi threats.
- On October 8, *Axios*, citing three U.S. officials, [reported](#) that Syria is considering sending troops to Yemen to help Saudi Arabia combat the Houthis.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Iraq

- On October 8, two explosive-laden drones [impacted](#) close to the Eastern Kurdish Refugee camp in Kawrgosk, Iraqi Kurdistan. No casualties were reported as the drones landed in an uninhabited area.

Lebanon

- On October 7, Reuters, citing two informed sources, [reported](#) that Iran provided Hezbollah with \$200 million in financial support last month to assist Lebanese citizens displaced during the war.
 - » However, a State Department spokesperson refuted the claims, insisting Hezbollah is "trying to save face with fake stories about cash influxes from Iran."
- On October 7, Israel's Kan public broadcaster [reported](#) that Hezbollah is operating in a limited capacity in three pilot zones that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) handed over to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in July as part of a plan to gradually phase Israeli troops out of southern Lebanon.
 - » Towns with reported Hezbollah activity in these areas include Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh, Froun, and Srifa.
- On October 7, the IDF [announced](#) that its fighters in southern Lebanon fired an interceptor missile at a "false target."

Maritime

- On October 9, an unidentified projectile [attacked](#) a vessel 13 nautical miles west of the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), sparking a fire on the ship, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center.
 - » At the same time, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [announced](#) that its forces fired at a liquefied petroleum gas carrier traveling through an "illegal route" south of the Strait of Hormuz, causing a fire in the vessel's engine room and propulsion system.
- On October 7, a tanker traveling 51 nautical miles north of Qatar [came under fire](#) "by multiple projectiles," resulting in an unknown number of casualties, according to UKMTO.
- On October 7, Reuters, citing maritime security sources, reported that between September 28–October 5, tankers traveling through the Strait of Hormuz suffered at least 12 attacks, marking the highest number of attacks targeting ships in the waterway in a single week since the start of the Iran war.

Outside the Middle East

- Iranian intelligence agencies are [surveilling](#) and potentially planning major attacks against U.S. military bases in Germany, according to Western intelligence officials cited in an October 9 *Al Arabiya* article.

Saudi Arabia

- On October 9, EASA, the European Union's aviation safety body, [announced](#) that it was expanding the scope of Saudi airspace in which airlines should avoid flying. That area now includes northwest Saudi Arabia.
 - » The previous day, the U.S. State Department issued a [public notice](#) stating that all U.S. government employees now need special authorization to use Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport and are not allowed to travel within 20 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border. The notice also warned U.S. citizens against traveling near the Saudi-Yemen border.
- On October 8, witnesses in Riyadh [reported](#) hearing several explosions throughout the capital city amid Saudi Arabia's continued fighting with the Houthis.
- On October 8, an attack on Saudi Arabia's King Khalid International Airport [killed](#) three Saudi citizens, injured several others, and caused damage to a Saudia airline aircraft.
 - » On October 9, Saudia airline [announced](#) that the attack killed one of its employees.
- On October 7, Houthi projectile attacks on King Khalid International Airport and Saudi Arabia's southern Abha airport [killed](#) three people, including a Moroccan woman, an Algerian woman, and a Sudanese resident, and injured an additional 36 people. The Houthis claimed to have used ballistic missiles in the attacks.

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

- On October 9, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [said](#) at a regional summit that U.S.-Iran peace talks can only succeed if they are "devoid of pressure and threats."

6. International Response

- On October 8, an Iraqi Airways [flight](#) from Najaf, Iraq, landed in Tehran, marking the first commercial flight operated by a foreign airline to arrive in Iran since the war began, according to Iranian state media.
 - » The flight followed a U.S. sanctions waiver [allowing](#) Iraqi Airways to transport pilgrims between Iran and Najaf, as well as a separate agreement permitting Iranian airlines, excluding Mahan Air, to resume flights to Najaf.
- On October 8, European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas [indicated](#) that the EU favors extending the mandate for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeeping mission because there are fears of "a security vacuum in southern Lebanon" and "so, as long as you don't have any kind of international force yet ready to do that ... it's dangerous when one mission like UNIFIL ends and the other one has not started yet."

7. 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

