Iran War Update: November 13, 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 November 13 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 624** (2 confirmed on Nov. 12–13)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **$96.70 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET** (day range: $95.06–96.81)

1. Overview

- On November 13, *Axios* reported that Mossad Director Roman Gofman traveled to Washington to meet CIA Director John Ratcliffe and potentially White House envoy Steve Witkoff as caretaker Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pressed President Donald Trump to resume military operations against Iran.
- In an interview with Hugh Hewitt on November 12, President Trump shared that if the Iranian regime is still in power when he leaves office, "that would be a defeat… Absolutely."
  - » President Trump stated that Iran's regime "will not exist very long" if Iran kills any senior U.S. officials following a question from Hewitt about the active Iranian security threats to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.
  - » Asked whether he would hesitate to take military action against Iran, President Trump responded, "If I saw things going the other way [in the Iran conflict], I would do that; it's possible I would do that right now." He added that he would use force "without hesitation" against Iran if necessary.
  - » President Trump also claimed that more oil has left the Middle East than "before the war started." According to recent reporting from *Bloomberg*, combined crude oil exports from Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates averaged roughly 15.53 million barrels per day through October, which is on par with pre-war levels.
- On November 11, the office of Prime Minister Netanyahu disputed reporting that the Israeli leader engaged in a "shouting match" with President Trump on restarting strikes against Iran as "Fake news, complete nonsense."
- For the first time since August, Brent crude oil prices dipped below $90 per barrel on November 10, following remarks from President Trump a day earlier that renewed military action against Iran "doesn't seem to be a very necessary thing" and that he expects the conflict to be "ending fairly soon."

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On November 12, Iranian Parliament Speaker and lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf claimed that U.S. officials "during a visit to Moscow, spoke with Mr. Putin and asked him to speak with Iran so that, in any case, Iran would agree to speak directly with them."

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

- On November 13, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Vice Admiral Curt Renshaw finished a visit to Israel, during which he met with the head of Israel's Navy, Vice Adm. Eyal Harel.
  - » The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) shared in a statement that discussions between the two commanders included "strengthening the partnership to maintain regional stability and the security of maritime routes, mutual coordination between the fleets, and technological knowledge-sharing."
  - » According to Israeli broadcaster *Kan News*, which cited U.S. defense officials, NAVCENT advised Israel to prepare for the possibility of imminent conflict with Iran. *Kan News* also reported that at least 200 U.S. aerial refuelers are now in the Middle East, and that a third U.S. aircraft carrier will arrive within a week.

Iran

- On November 12, Iranian officials announced that an "enemy" strike targeted the southern city of Sirik.
  - » Iranian media later claimed the strike targeted a telecommunications tower in the city.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Israel's *Walla News* reported on November 13, citing Israeli defense officials, that Israel estimates that Iran has restored approximately 20 percent of its pre-war ballistic missile production capability.
- On November 13, Iranian forces claimed to have shot down an American drone flying near Kuhestak off Iran's southern coast.

Bahrain

- On November 13, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced that its forces targeted an American early-warning radar located in Bahrain in response to a strike on an Iranian telecommunications tower in Sirik.
  - » The Iranian attack on Bahrain is the first Iranian strike on American equipment in a Gulf country since September.
  - » U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) later rejected Iranian claims that the IRGC struck the radar system and confirmed that American forces intercepted two Iranian drones targeting Bahrain.

Lebanon

- On November 13, Israeli news outlet *Maariv* reported that the Iranian regime has started sending funds to Hezbollah for the first time since the war began in February. According to *Maariv*, the money transfers, which took place in recent weeks, are expected to fund Hezbollah's continued rearmament.
  - » Reuters reported in early October that Hezbollah received a cash infusion of over $200 million from Iran, citing Hezbollah personnel.

» U.S. officials recently denied that Hezbollah has resumed getting funds from Iran.

Maritime

- On November 13, the IRGC Navy claimed that a tanker carrying liquefied gas struck a naval mine and suffered an explosion in the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC did not provide details about casualties or damage.

Outside the Middle East

- On November 12, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Iran is looking to increase its efforts to cause physical destruction using cyber means by targeting oil tankers, water systems, and grocery store refrigerators using artificial intelligence.
- On November 12, Belgian Interior Minister Bernard Quintin asserted that Tehran "very likely" caused the cyberattacks on European supermarket refrigerators, though Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot noted that there is currently insufficient information to conclude that Iran is the culprit.
- On November 12, *The New York Times* reported that Tehran is seizing the assets of dissidents living abroad and their families still in Iran as punishment for opposition to the regime, relying partly on a law passed after the 12-Day War increasing penalties for individuals accused of helping "hostile governments," especially the United States and Israel.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 12, the Houthis announced that they struck Pumping Station No. 7 on the East-West Pipeline with a drone and an oil facility in Yanbu with a ballistic missile.
  - » That day, the Saudi-led coalition announced that over the course of several hours, it intercepted three Houthi drones, including one over Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province.

5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On November 11, Ansar al-Furqan, an armed Baloch group, merged with the People's Fighters Front, an organization of Baloch fighters challenging the Iranian government in the country's Sistan and Balochistan Province.

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

- On November 13, *Iran International* reported that an adviser to Iran's supreme leader threatened Armenia after Yerevan's parliament approved The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, a route along the Iranian border connecting Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan exclave and Armenia's southern Syunik province.
  - » According to *Iran International*, Syunik's border with the Iranian province of East Azerbaijan is "Iran's only direct land connection to Armenia" and this new route would "bring a US presence to the frontier" of Iran.

7. International Response

- On November 13, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned that it could not verify whether Iran had diverted nuclear material from peaceful purposes, citing Tehran's continued refusal to grant inspectors access to nuclear facilities damaged by U.S. and Israeli strikes in June 2025 or account for its stockpile of approximately 440 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 percent.
  - » The IAEA expressed it is "increasingly concerned" over the Isfahan Fuel Enrichment Plant (IFEP), which Iran declared in June 2025 but has never allowed inspectors to visit, leaving its exact location, status, and nuclear material inventory unknown.

  - » Iran said inspections could not resume amid continued U.S. threats of military strikes but reaffirmed its commitment to fulfilling its safeguards obligations once conditions permitted.
- On November 12, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously voted to adopt a United Kingdom-drafted resolution condemning Houthi attacks on global shipping and Saudi Arabia. The UNSC resolution stated, "there is no military solution to the current conflict, and that the only viable path forward is dialogue and reconciliation among the multiple and varied parties."
  - » The UNSC also renewed sanctions against Yemen for another year that target Houthi leaders and the group's ability to obtain dual-use components and chemicals for manufacturing weapons.
- On November 12, six European officials informed Reuters that Saudi Arabia is urging the European Union (EU) to label the Houthis as a terrorist organization.
  - » However, the EU is concerned that labeling the rebel group as such could harm future attempts at peace.

8. JINSA Resources

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- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, *The Yemen–Horn of Africa Corridor: Houthi Expansion and the Gap in American Red Sea Strategy*, October 22, 2026
- 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