Iran War Update: November 14–16, 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 16 at 10:15 am ET.

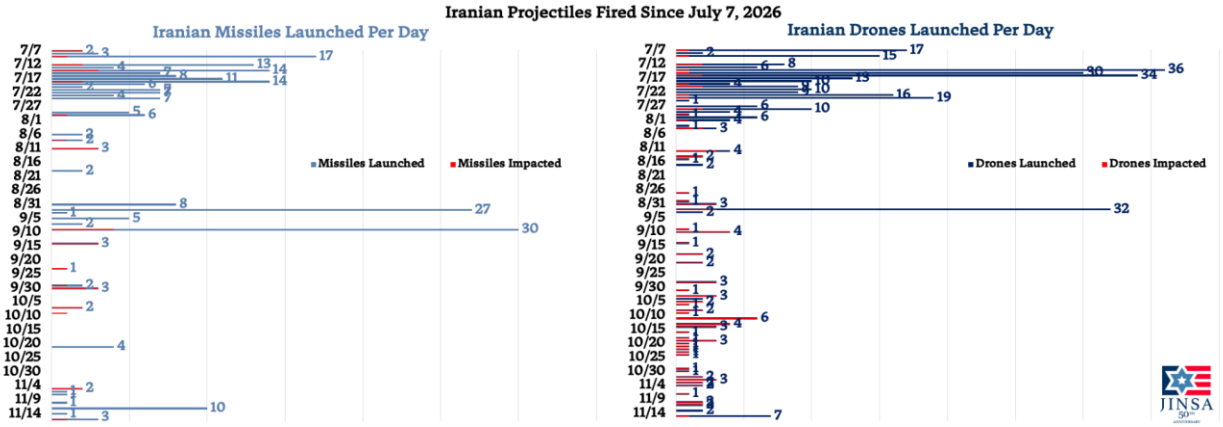
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 648** (13 on November 13–16)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **$94.17 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET** (day range: $94.25–96.77)

1. Overview

- After forces affiliated with Yemen's internationally recognized government (IRG) withdrew from territory near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on November 15 to concentrate on defending Aden, the Houthis reportedly took control of territory along the southern coast of Yemen and advanced to the Al-Madariba District, about 37 miles from Aden.
  - » The November 15 announcement by Yemeni government forces of their withdrawal indicated the end of the IRG's six-week counteroffensive aimed at retaking Yemen's coast near Bab el-Mandeb from the Houthis.
- On November 15, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed that six of its drones targeted a U.S. radar system at Bahrain's Al-Riffa air base. Iran previously attacked a U.S. facility in Bahrain on November 13, marking the first Iranian attacks against Bahrain in several weeks.
- Reuters reported on November 14 that President Donald Trump has shared with senior advisors that he might refrain from resuming attacks on Iran if Iran and the Houthis do not provoke the United States, citing three sources familiar with the matter.
- On November 14, the *USS Roosevelt* aircraft carrier arrived in the Middle East, bringing the total number of U.S. Navy carrier strike groups in the region to three, according to reporting from Barak Ravid of *Axios*.
- *The Wall Street Journal* reported on November 14 that the American intelligence community believes Tehran still has 1,500 to 2,500 missiles, noting that this is a low-confidence assessment given the challenges of accounting for exact quantities.
  - » Officials noted that despite American and Israeli strikes on Iran's missile production sites, Iran has successfully worked to rebuild its missile stockpile, although at a slower pace than its pre-war production rates, mainly by using stockpiled missile components.

- On November 13, CBS News reported that an American soldier who survived Iran's deadly March attack at a U.S. logistics center in Kuwait submitted a whistleblower complaint to Congress stating that U.S. military leadership disregarded warnings and failed to sufficiently plan for drone threats prior to the war.
  - » A group of senior U.S. military officers told *The Atlantic* that they had repeatedly pressed commanders in the Middle East to utilize Ukrainian technology developed to counter Shahed drones, concerned about possible Iranian drone attacks on U.S. forces.
- On November 13, Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated, "The economic pain that we are inflicting on that regime [Iran] is so great that there's no need for military action because we've weakened them so much."



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On November 16, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said Tehran would not allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to access its damaged nuclear facilities until the U.S.-Iran war ended permanently and Washington met Iran's conditions.
  - » Gharibabadi suggested the IAEA's requests to inspect damaged facilities, including Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan, were "likely aimed at assessing the effectiveness of American weaponry."
  - » 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 November 15, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei rejected Germany's demand that Tehran halt uranium enrichment, asserting Iran's self-proclaimed right to enrich uranium under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and declaring that the right was "not something Germany, France or others have granted us."
- On November 14, a senior U.S. official said President Trump planned to discuss the Iran war with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin during trilateral talks on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Shenzhen, China, on November 19, but would not address Russia's war in Ukraine.

Lebanon

- On a November 16 visit to Beirut, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz called for Hezbollah to voluntarily disarm, declaring that "no country can have two armies" and emphasizing that the Lebanese Armed Forces must restore the government's sovereignty over the country.

» Separately, Saudi outlet *Al-Hadath* reported that Washington was considering a new international force of up to 100 personnel to replace the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon when the latter's mandate expires at the end of 2026.

– The proposed mission would help implement the June Israel-Lebanon security agreement, potentially operate north of the Litani River, and receive authorization through a United Nations Security Council resolution.

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

- Israel's security cabinet convened on November 15 for the first time in over a month, according to Israeli outlet *Ynet News*.
- On November 14, Israel's Channel 12 outlet reported that Israeli officials are split over whether to resume strikes on Iran. Leaders of the Mossad intelligence agency reportedly support a return to war, while leaders of the defense establishment reportedly believe "there is no urgent justification" for restarting the war.
- On November 13, U.S. European Command reported that the U.S. Air Force detected unauthorized drone activity at RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom, amid heightened security concerns over potential Iran-linked threats to American military installations across the country.

Iraq

- On November 16, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi ordered Iraqi troops to enter the Jurf al-Sakher area, a stronghold of the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah militia.

» On November 14, al-Zaidi fired nine officials after an investigation into oil smuggling in Jurf al-Sakher.

Lebanon

- Overnight on November 15–16, the Israel Defense Forces struck a smuggled weapons shipment from Syria, destined for Hezbollah fighters in the Janta area of the Beqaa Valley.

Yemen

- On November 16, Saudi Arabia removed Lieutenant General Fahd bin Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Salman as the anti-Houthi coalition commander, replacing him with General Fayyad bin Hamed bin Ruqad al-Ruwaili.

» Saudi officials announced that al-Salman will now serve as the Minister of Defense's military affairs advisor.

- On November 15, Yemen's IRG announced that since its Saudi-backed Operation Dawn of Yemen commenced on October 5, its forces have launched 906 attacks on Houthi fighters, including "41 airstrikes, 18 drone attacks, 90 rocket attacks and 757 artillery strikes," according to *Iran International*.

» In the same announcement, Yemen's government announced that its counter-Houthi fight continues, with efforts concentrated in Marib, Al-Jawf, and Taiz provinces.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On November 15, the Iranian army announced that its air defenses intercepted an Orbiter 4 drone in Nahavand, Hamadan province.

» Iranian forces did not provide evidence of the incident, but Israel's Aeronautics Group manufactures Orbiter drones.

Bahrain

- On November 16, a court in Bahrain sentenced 64 Shia Muslims, 57 of them clerics, to life in prison for ties to a terrorist group associated with the IRGC.
- On November 15, for the first time since September, Bahraini air defenses shot down several Iranian projectiles targeting the Gulf country.
  - » Referring to the November 15 attack, the IRGC claimed that its forces fired six drones at an American air defense radar at Bahrain's Al-Riffa helicopter base.
- On November 13, Iran claimed to target a U.S. radar system in Bahrain, though it is not clear if the two attacks were against the same radar system.
  - » Following the November 13 attack, U.S. military officials denied that any radar system was destroyed, and asserted that the United States downed two Iranian drones. The Iranian regime claimed the attack was in response to U.S. strikes.

Iraq

- On November 16, a Komala official announced that Iranian forces fired two missiles at the Kurdish group's base in Erbil's Balisan area.
  - » *Rudaw* also reported that a strike caused an explosion in the Soran district of Erbil.
- On November 16, Reuters reported, citing senior Iraqi security, military, police, and oil officials, that the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah militia had generated hundreds of millions of dollars by smuggling stolen Iraqi oil since 2021, with assistance from officials within Iraq's security and oil sectors.
  - » Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi reportedly began preparing security forces to confront the militia and dismantle its smuggling network. Kataib Hezbollah denied the allegations.

Maritime

- On November 16, the IRGC claimed that explosions occurred in the Strait of Hormuz when two tankers struck mines, adding that six tankers experienced similar incidents between November 15–16.
  - » Iran has frequently claimed attacks in the Strait of Hormuz were the result of mines without providing evidence.
- On November 16, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center reported that an unknown projectile struck a tanker while traveling through the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a fire in the ship's engine room.
- On November 15, UKMTO reported that Indian shipping authorities informed the center of a tanker coming under attack while traveling through the Arabian Gulf, as it was about to enter the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 15, the Saudi-led coalition claimed to have shot down two Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Riyadh.
  - » That same day, the Houthis claimed to have carried out drone and missile strikes on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport and two oil pumping sites on the East-West pipeline.
- On November 14, the Saudi-led coalition intercepted two Houthi drones targeting Riyadh and southern Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

- On November 15, the Houthis carried out a missile attack on a checkpoint near Aden in Khor Omeira, Lahj province, killing five people and injuring eight others.

- On November 15, sources informed Agence France-Presse that the Houthis have captured two districts in Yemen's Lahij province, positioning their group at the Al-Kharaz camp in Al-Madariba, which is about 37 miles from Aden, the de facto capital of Yemen's IRG.
  - » That same day, Houthi forces reportedly took land near the Red Sea between Dhubab and Khor Amira after Yemeni government forces relocated troops near Aden to defend the city, according to Houthi sources.

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

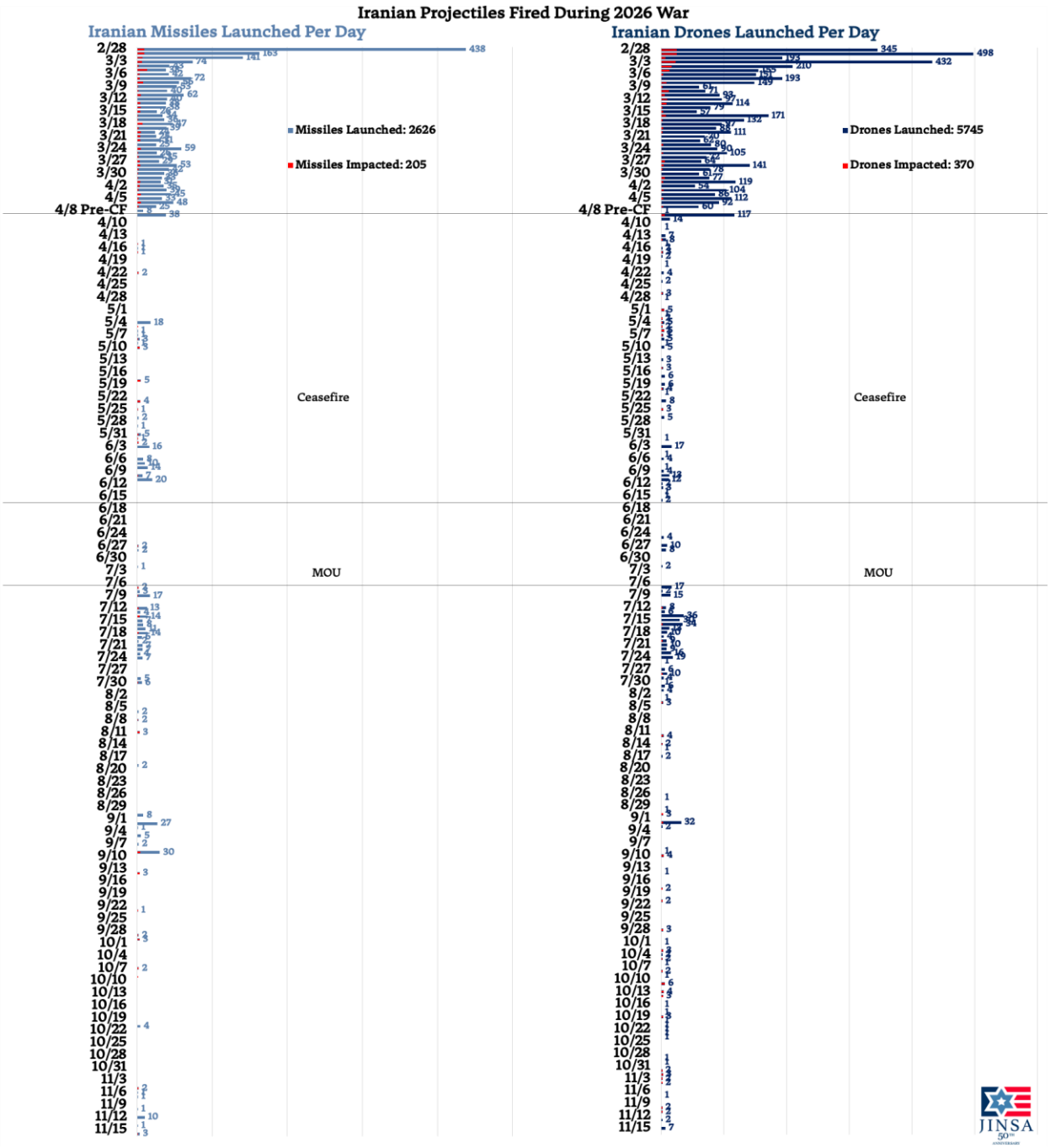
- On November 15, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Baghaei accused the IAEA of "nontechnical speculation" regarding a possible new enrichment facility in Isfahan, maintained that Iran had not suspended its safeguards obligations, and warned that Tehran would "not leave any blow unanswered" if attacked again.

6. International Response

- On November 16, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot stated that he was "confident" the European Union would approve new sanctions against Iran after cyberattacks targeting refrigerators in hundreds of grocery stores that France and Belgium attributed to the country.

7. JINSA Resources

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, "President Trump: Forget the Midterms and Finish the Job in Iran," *The Hill*, November 7, 2026
- 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


Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War
Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day
Missiles Launched: 2626
Missiles Impacted: 205
Ceasefire
MOU
Iranian Drones Launched Per Day
Drones Launched: 5745
Drones Impacted: 370
Ceasefire
MOU
JINSA