Iran War Update: November 24–25, 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 25 at 10:30 am ET.

Brent Crude Oil Price: $92.47 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET (day range: $89.50–92.79)

1. Overview

- In an interview with the *New York Post* on November 24, when asked about whether the window to freely strike Iran is diminishing as a new Democrat-majority Congress will be sworn in in January, President Trump stated that "up until really the end of January, pretty much, we're funded."
  - » He also stated that Israel's objective of collapsing the Iranian regime is "probably doable," though he added, "I just don't want [Iran] to have a nuclear weapon. I was never for or against regime change, that was never a criteria for me."
- NBC News reported on November 24 that the Trump administration is having "renewed discussions" on assassinating Iranian leadership, with some U.S. officials thinking that doing so could prompt an end to the war, while others are concerned about the risk of Iranian retaliation against American officials.
- On November 24, Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz stated in a press conference that "Iran is in the process of developing chemical weapons" and is actively working to assassinate President Trump and his family members.
  - » Israel's Kan News public broadcaster reported on November 25 that Israel has been aware of Iran's chemical weapons program for more than a decade, with files concerning the program included among the Iranian nuclear archives Israel seized in 2018.
  - » Katz said that Iran-linked cells were active inside the United States and are also plotting to attack senior U.S. officials, as well as President Trump and his family members.
  - » Katz stated that "If we recognize that the Iranians intend to attack Israel, can't we tell the army to attack earlier and thwart the threat?"
  - » However, a diplomat told reporters in Tel Aviv on November 25 that "there is no clear intelligence that something imminent is happening," though "the will is there" in Iran to pursue chemical weapons.

- On November 24, Israel's *Ynet News* reported, citing U.S. sources, that North Korea is helping Iran rebuild its ballistic missile launch capabilities, including in underground Iranian facilities. The North Korean experts are reportedly advising Iran remotely.
- On November 23, the Treasury Department enacted sanctions targeting Iranian shadow banking networks, including "over two dozen Iranian exchange houses, front companies, and key personnel."
  - » Following the sanctions announcement, the value of the Iranian rial fell on November 24: one U.S. dollar traded at 2.82 million rials on the black market, compared to 2.68 million the day prior.
- *The Washington Post* reported on November 23 that some Republican Senate leaders indicated openness to a deal with Democrats that would terminate funding for the war in Iran in order to prevent a government shutdown.
- On November 23, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that American officials are investigating several cyberattacks and bomb threats targeting around 50 ships that are transporting oil, liquefied petroleum, and other goods, with Iran being the main suspect.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On November 24, Iran's Parliament Speaker and lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reiterated that Iran will not engage in talks with the United States "until Iran's seven conditions are met," which, according to Iranian state media, include lifting the U.S. naval blockade on Iran, releasing frozen Iranian assets, and lifting sanctions on Iran.
- On November 23, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance met briefly at the White House with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and envoy Ali al-Thawadi, who have been mediating efforts to end the U.S.-Iran war, despite President Donald Trump's recent directive that Vance shift his focus from Iran to domestic issues.
  - » U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also met with Al Thani, emphasizing their commitment to advancing "shared economic and security priorities" and strengthening bilateral ties amid Qatar's continued efforts to revive U.S.-Iran negotiations.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 24, Secretary Rubio spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, condemning Iran-backed Houthi attacks on Saudi civilian and energy infrastructure and underscoring "the necessity of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandeb."

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

- On November 24, the United States found Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei guilty of, among other illegal activities, lying to banks about its business dealings with Iran's regime.
  - » The Eastern District of New York convicted Huawei and three of its subsidiaries on 10 counts of criminal activity, including concealing its activity in Iran.
  - » The Department of Justice asserted that Huawei used a fake company, Skycom, which in reality was a Huawei subsidiary, to operate in Iran and help the regime spy on its citizens. This assistance included providing cameras for the regime to monitor protests and supplying tools to monitor Iranians' internet activities.

Iran

- On November 25, the U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent posted on X that Iran has failed to "load a single tanker since Treasury launched Operation Economic Outcast in August," and "doesn't have a drop of oil on the water left to sell."
- On November 24, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said that President Trump "has already demonstrated twice in the last year and a half that he is willing to use military action, and he's made it very clear he's willing to do it again."
- On November 23, following the announcement of new U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's shadow banking networks, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent posted on X, "Iran's economy is underwater, and its leaders are panicking."
  - » He added, "Iran's shadow banking system is the last financial lifeline of a bankrupt regime."
- On November 23, the Treasury Department announced sanctions on "over two dozen Iranian exchange houses, front companies, and key personnel" in order to target Iran's shadow banking system.
  - » The Treasury Department statement announcing the sanctions noted that Iran's Central Bank oversees the country's shadow banking system.
- On November 23, the U.S. State Department's Rewards for Justice program posted on X a call for information on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) financial network, with a reward of up to $15 million, after having previously posted about the reward on October 8.

Lebanon

- On November 24, Lebanese media reported that Israeli forces struck sites within the Israeli military's buffer zone in southern Lebanon, including in Qabrikha, Touline, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Mayfadoun, and Kfar Tebnit.

Strait of Hormuz

- On November 24, President Trump claimed that the United States was "taking more oil through the Hormuz Strait right now than [it] did before the war started," and that oil prices are "coming down to very reasonable numbers."
  - » On November 24, U.S. Central Command spokesperson Tim Hawkins said that Gulf partners had shipped more than 108 million barrels of crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz under U.S. protection the previous week, marking the largest weekly volume since the war began in February.
  - » Separately, a U.S. official said that more than 8,000 commercial vessels had transited the Strait since the April 7 ceasefire, approximately half of which transited under U.S. protection, and that more than 95 percent had transited without incident.
- On November 24, *Iran International* reported, citing Kpler data, that oil exports from Persian Gulf producers—excluding Iran—had nearly recovered to prewar levels despite continued attacks on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, with Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. surpassing their prewar crude and condensate export volumes.

Yemen

- On November 25, the Saudi-led coalition announced that it had conducted airstrikes targeting "operational capabilities at the port of Hodeida" following earlier warnings for civilians to evacuate the port. Following the strike, the Houthis threatened retaliation.
- On November 24, Yemen's senior officials told reporters that the Yemeni military has made significant progress in its operations against the Houthis, and may soon be able to retake the Houthi-held cities of Marib and Sanaa.

» They also expressed confidence that the Houthis will be unable to seize the city of Aden, where the Yemeni government is headquartered, despite the Houthis moving closer to Aden in recent days.

- On November 24, Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV accused Saudi forces of conducting airstrikes against civilian properties in Yemen's Sanaa and Amran provinces.
  - » The Houthi-controlled Ministry of Health and Environment claimed that Saudi airstrikes had killed 1,421 civilians in Yemen since September 2.
- On November 24, Yemen's embassy in Washington posted on X the need to "coordinate international efforts to counter Houthi threats" in order to "strengthen regional security and stability, and protect global maritime trade."
- On November 23, Houthi authorities reported that Saudi-led coalition airstrikes against telecommunications facilities in Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeida killed 17 workers, wounded 11 others, and disrupted telecommunications and internet services.
  - » Separately, Houthi-run media reported on November 24 that Saudi airstrikes targeting buses and trucks in Wadi Mabaq, Lahj province, the day before had left 25 people dead or missing and six wounded.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On November 24, President Trump claimed that the United States was "taking more oil through the Hormuz Strait right now than [it] did before the war started," and that oil prices are "coming down to very reasonable numbers."

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On November 24, the State Department issued security alerts to American citizens in the Middle East, stating that "Iran has launched attacks targeting US assets in both Bahrain and Kuwait, and Iranian-supported Houthis have engaged in hostilities against Saudi Arabia, including attacks on civilian airports and other critical infrastructure resulting in civilian casualties and severe travel disruptions."

Maritime

- On November 25, the IRGC's Navy claimed that early that morning, two tankers struck naval mines while trying to travel through an unauthorized route in the Strait of Hormuz, resulting in explosions and the ships catching fire.
- On November 24, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center announced that unidentified projectiles struck three separate vessels on November 22 as they traveled eastbound in the Strait of Hormuz.
- On November 24, UKMTO reported that an unknown projectile struck a bulk carrier anchored at Dibba Outside Port Limits (OPL), 23 nautical miles northeast of Khor Fakkan, United Arab Emirates, on November 22.
  - » The attack sparked a fire onboard the ship, but UKMTO has not reported any casualties.
- On November 24, the IRGC's Navy claimed in the early morning that two tankers in "restricted areas" east of Hormuz hit naval mines, sparking fires.
  - » A couple of hours later, Iran's Navy also claimed that a tanker struck a naval mine, causing an explosion and fire east of Hormuz.
- On November 23, three vessels traveling east through the Strait of Hormuz came under attack by unidentified projectiles, but the crew members are safe, according to UKMTO.

- On November 23, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the United States is investigating a series of cyberattacks, as well as bomb threats, targeting around 50 ships transporting petroleum products, oil, chemical products, and explosives.
  - » Right now, U.S. officials consider Iran the main suspect, followed by Russia.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 25, the Houthis threatened to attack Saudi ports, including Jeddah, if Saudi forces target Yemen's Hodeida port—a Houthi stronghold.
- On November 25, Saudi air defenses shot down seven drones targeting sites in Saudi Arabia's Eastern province, including four drones targeting Ras Tanura.
- On November 24, the Houthis carried out an attack on a tower in the financial district of Riyadh for the second time in a week, injuring 11 people.
- On November 24, Saudi Arabia's embassy in Washington, D.C., announced that Saudi air defenses have intercepted 204 Houthi aerial attacks between September 24–November 24.
  - » The embassy stated in an X post that "The attacks targeted civilian infrastructure and energy facilities across several regions, including areas near the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah, and caused multiple casualties."
- On November 23, the Saudi-led coalition shot down a Houthi drone targeting southern Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

- Yemen's military spokesman Col. Majid al-Nuzaili shared during a briefing on November 24 that Houthi forces are now within roughly 40 miles of Aden and are planning an assault on the city, according to Yemeni military spokesman Majid al-Nuzaili.
- On November 24, the Yemeni Armed Forces said the Houthis recently launched an attack on civilian vehicles in southern Yemen's Lahj province, killing multiple people.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On November 24, a bomb detonated near an Iranian army facility, causing property damage. The incident took place in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, where violence between the Iranian regime and local Baloch residents has escalated in recent months.

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

- On November 25, Iranian military spokesman Mohammad Akraminia claimed that Iran is utilizing more advanced capabilities to monitor and threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, without specifying further.
- On November 24, Iran's Parliament Speaker and lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf threatened that Iran will "shift the geographical scope of the conflict should the enemy make a mistake."
- On November 24, Iranian National Security Council chief Mohsen Rezaei said that Iran is determined to get through the U.S. naval blockade and added that the blockade will ultimately be a "futile" effort.
- On November 24, IRGC Tharallah Headquarters Deputy Commander Hossein Nejat claimed that "Neither Russia nor China gave us ammunition or weapons. Now we are asking Russia and China for tear gas, and they won't give it to us."
- On November 24, IRGC Commander Ahmad Vahidi warned that "Our enemies must understand that war will no longer necessarily be confined to the region."

- On November 23, Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Gholamhossein Darzi claimed in a letter to the UN Security Council that Bahrain facilitated American attacks on Iran, writing that "No state can evade its international obligations or responsibility by allowing its territory to be used as a platform for aggression against another sovereign state."

8. International Response

- On November 25, two British media outlets reported that the Royal Air Force is relocating aircraft into hangars and is looking to put up anti-drone nets around uncovered planes amid drone threats from Iran and Russia.
- On November 24, Britain sanctioned the Houthis and four senior officials in the organization for attacking Saudi Arabia and targeting civilians in the region.

9. JINSA Resources

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- LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), LtGen Sam Mundy, USMC (ret.), and MajGen Robert Sofge, USMC (ret.), *Closing Iran's Second Front: A U.S. Strategy for the Houthi Threat*, November 17, 2026
- Jonah Brody, *To Stop Iran's Rearmament, Trump Must Confront Russia and China*, November 16, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, "How the Iran War Exposes Cracks in America's Foundation," *The Dispatch*, November 13, 2026
- 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