Iran War Update: November 3–4, 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 4 at 10:30 am ET.

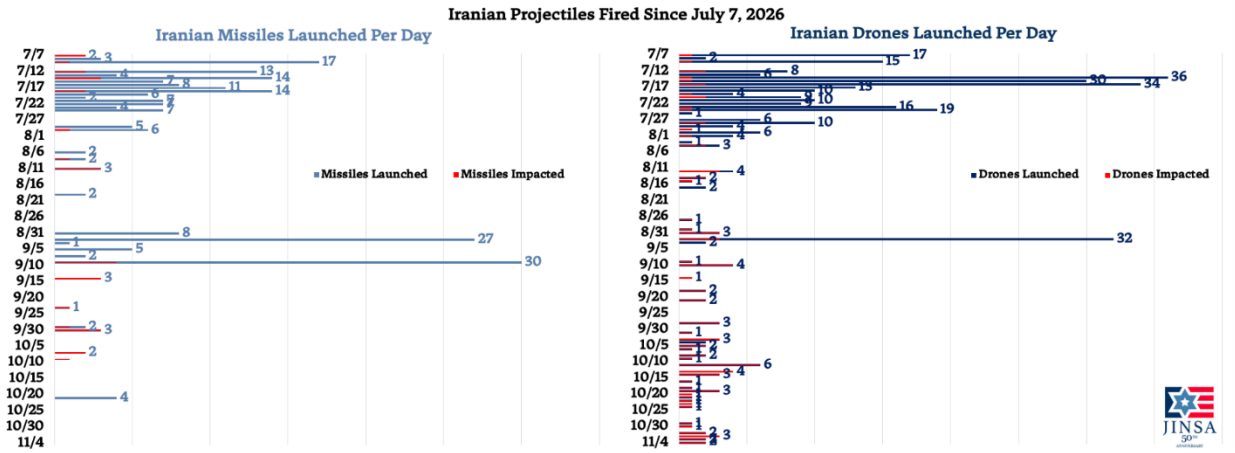
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 613** (5 on November 2–4)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **$106.76 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET** (day range: $108.11–112.41)

1. Overview

- On November 3, President Donald Trump told the *Financial Times* that he has no plans to strike Iran because "we seem to be getting everything we want," adding that "we're having discussions, and we'll see how that all works out."
- On November 3, *The New York Times* reported that Israel had provided intelligence to the United States and Gulf nations that Iran is considering using chemical weapons if fighting resumes.
  - » The intelligence reportedly alarmed some U.S. officials, who were deeply skeptical of the Israeli claims and saw it as part of an Israeli effort to pressure the United States to escalate against Iran.
- On November 3, President Trump claimed that the United States and Israel had agreed to end U.S. military assistance to Israel by the end of 2026, saying Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supported the decision.
  - » President Trump added that, despite the cessation of annual assistance, the United States will "help Israel if they need it. They've been a great ally."
  - » The president's statement appeared to contradict the existing U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding, which provides $3.8 billion in annual military assistance through September 2028.
- On November 2, the United States conducted airstrikes against Iran's Qeshm Island, senior U.S. officials told *The Wall Street Journal*. Separately, that day, a U.S. fighter jet fired back against an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) missile site after being targeted by a surface-to-air missile.
  - » The military action was the latest in a series of small-scale U.S. airstrikes against Iran in recent weeks, which have been kept secret, according to officials. The *Journal* reported

that the strikes have been “defensive in nature, to prevent Iran from having the freedom to attack commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz.”



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- Iran is pushing for China to be more involved in negotiations, according to November 4 reporting from *Iran International* citing Saudi Arabia’s *Al Hadath*. Iranian officials reportedly want China to be the guarantor of any U.S.-Iran deal.
  - » Senior Iranian national security official Ali Bagheri Kani reportedly told Chinese counterparts that Iran wants China to play a larger role in the talks during his trip to Beijing on November 2.
  - » In addition, China’s Middle East envoy, Zhai Jun, spoke by phone with the Qatari foreign minister on November 4. Jun will travel to Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Oman later this month, according to Chinese officials.
  - » Moreover, Oman’s head of state, Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, traveled to Beijing on November 1-2 to meet with President Xi Jinping. According to an Omani readout, the two discussed their mutual desire for a comprehensive ceasefire between America and Iran.
- On November 3, Qatar said it continued to facilitate negotiations between the United States and Iran, with both sides reviewing proposals for ending the war, despite reports that Tehran increasingly expected a return to hostilities.
  - » Saudi Arabia’s *Al Arabiya* reported, citing anonymous sources, that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had urged Iran’s security leadership to advance the latest Qatari peace proposal.
  - » Separately, the United Arab Emirates’ (U.A.E.) *Erem News* reported that Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei had rejected a proposal to establish a direct U.S.-Iran communication channel in Doha.
- On November 3, Reuters reported, citing an official from an unspecified country briefed on negotiations, that Qatari mediators expected responses from the United States and Iran within 36 hours to a new proposal aimed at advancing negotiations to end the war.
  - » The official said both sides were reviewing the proposal, while Iranian officials reiterated that Tehran would not modify its core demands for ending the conflict.
  - » Iran’s seven demands remain: 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.

  - » That day, Iranian Supreme National Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei stated, "The U.S. response to the demands and rights of the Islamic Republic has not been convincing."

Lebanon

- On November 3, Israeli public broadcaster *Kan* reported, citing a security source, that Israel asked Lebanon, through U.S. mediators, to deploy troops and establish checkpoints in Hezbollah-controlled areas to prevent the group from joining a potential renewed war between Israel and Iran.
  - » In addition, Israel warned Lebanon that fighting would resume if Hezbollah launched attacks against Israel.

Yemen

- On November 4, Yemeni Foreign Minister Afrah al-Zouba said the Iran-backed Houthis "aren't willing" to negotiate a peace agreement with Yemen's internationally recognized government, accusing Tehran of using the Houthis to advance its regional agenda.
  - » Al-Zouba said any peace settlement must enable the Yemeni government to regain control of the entire country.

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

- On November 3, Reuters reported that U.S. intelligence sharing about Iran and other threats within the federal government and to Congress has slowed, and in some cases stopped during President Trump's second term.
- On November 2, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman held a phone call to discuss "strategic defense cooperation and efforts to deescalate regional tensions," as well as "the continued attacks by the Houthis on the kingdom," according to a Saudi readout.

Iran

- On November 3, a U.S. official confirmed that American forces had conducted "defensive" strikes against Iranian targets on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, targeting Iranian personnel allegedly using surface-to-air missiles against U.S. assets.

Lebanon

- On November 4, Lebanese media reported that an Israeli drone strike targeted a motorcycle in Qabrikha, southern Lebanon, killing one person and wounding another. The IDF did not immediately comment on the incident.

4. Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea Shipping

- On November 3, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said the company was exploring an expansion of its East-West Pipeline as part of efforts to bypass the Strait of Hormuz amid continued disruptions to global energy supplies. The pipeline can transport up to 7 million barrels of crude oil per day to Yanbu on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, of which 5 million barrels per day are made available for export.
  - » Nasser said Aramco was also considering alternative export routes and overseas storage capacity.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On November 4, the IRGC claimed that its air defense system shot down a U.S. MQ-1 drone operating over Qeshm Island, marking what the IRGC insists is the 15th attack of its kind.
  - » The U.S. military has yet to confirm the incident.

Iraq

- On November 4, two suicide drones targeted a headquarters belonging to the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Iraqi Kurdistan's Allaneh Valley. The strike resulted in material damage to the headquarters, but did not result in any casualties.

Maritime

- On November 4, the IRGC claimed that four tankers attempting to travel through a prohibited route south of the Strait of Hormuz struck naval mines, resulting in the ships catching fire.
  - » The IRGC also reported that it seized two vessels.
- On November 3, two unknown projectiles struck a tanker's engine room 14 nautical miles northeast of Lima, Oman, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center.
- On November 2, India's government informed UKMTO of an attack on a dhow with an Indian crew transiting the Strait of Hormuz.
  - » According to the report, Oman's navy helped rescue the dhow's surviving crew members.
- On November 1, an unknown projectile struck a vessel nine nautical miles northeast of Lima, Oman, ripping a hole in the ship's starboard side.

Syria

- On November 3, Syrian officials arrested Hezbollah members that allegedly planned to attack the Homs oil refinery with explosives.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 4, the Houthis announced that their forces targeted Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, but Saudi authorities have yet to confirm an attack.
- On November 3, the Saudi-led coalition shot down a drone near the holy city of Mecca.
- On November 2, the Houthis claimed that they fired drones at Dammam airport, a military plane at Jizan airport, and a radar for early warnings in Jizan.

Yemen

- On November 3, Yemen's Interior Minister Ibrahim Ali Haidan claimed that "The only decision-making power the Houthis possess is the microphone. The decision is written in Tehran and announced in Sanaa, and the price is paid in Taiz, Hodeidah and the other embattled provinces."
  - » His statement accompanies his claim that a staff of 21 IRGC and Hezbollah experts throughout Yemen are directing Houthi military operations and assisting the rebel group with its weapons development and smuggling networks.
- On November 2, the Houthis moved within 50 miles of Aden, the temporary capital of Yemen's internationally recognized government.
  - » This milestone marks the closest the rebel group has approached Aden since 2015.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

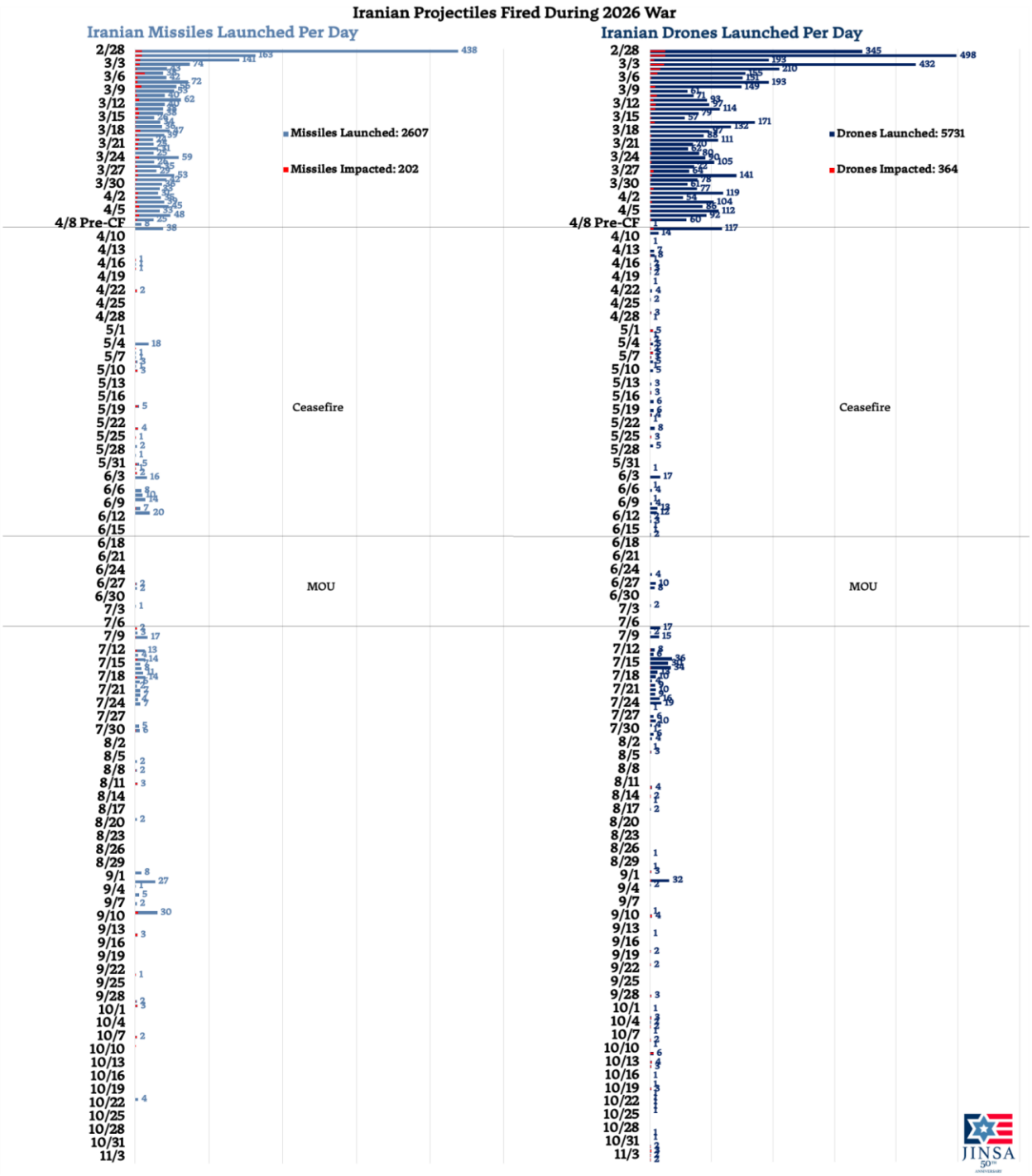
- On November 4, pro-regime Iranians marked the 47th anniversary of Iranian students taking over the U.S. embassy in Tehran and taking Americans hostage by burning U.S. and Israeli flags, as well as holding up banners that read "We will kill Trump."
- On November 3, internet users in Tehran and several other Iranian provinces reported widespread connectivity disruptions, including intermittent outages and severe slowdowns, amid concerns over renewed U.S. military strikes against Iran.

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

- On November 4, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei reportedly stated following the U.S. midterm elections that "Those who still harbor even the slightest hope that the behavior of the hegemonic system might change through partisan or factional shifts, or who imagine that making concessions to the United States can dissuade it from hostility towards the Iranian nation, are seriously mistaken."
  - » In the statement, Khamenei also warned the United States that "should such aggressions [strikes on Iran] be repeated, the war's scope will become much wider."

8. JINSA Resources

- 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: 2607
Missiles Impacted: 202
Ceasefire
MOU
Iranian Drones Launched Per Day
Drones Launched: 5731
Drones Impacted: 364
Ceasefire
MOU
JINSA