# Iran War Update: November 5–6, 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 6 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 617** (2 on November 5–6)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **$98.11 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET** (day range: $96.67–100.83)

## 1. Overview

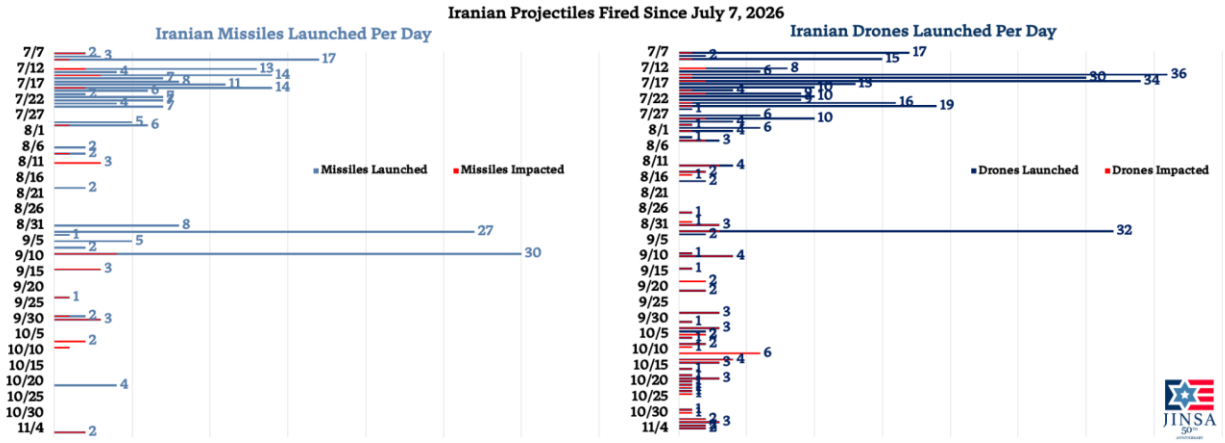
- On November 6, Fox News reported that President Donald Trump held meetings with senior national security officials at the White House on November 4-5 about potential new U.S. strikes on Iran.
  - » Fox News noted that November 9 "marks a new moon in the Middle East, meaning little to no moonlight—a condition favorable for military operations."
- On November 6, the Associated Press reported that the Trump administration has held secret discussions with Iran about deporting Iranians from America for over a year, including since the Iran war broke out in February.
- On November 6, BBC Verify reported that Iran was undertaking significant construction near its Garmdareh missile base in Karaj, outside Tehran, and Shahroud base in the north, potentially expanding underground infrastructure to protect missile production and storage capabilities from future U.S. and Israeli strikes.
  - » The satellite imagery the team reviewed also showed at least 12 other military sites undergoing repairs, including the Kermanshah missile base and Parchin military complex, as well as new excavations near Qom.
- Following President Trump's announcement earlier this week that U.S. aid to Israel will terminate by the end of 2026, Spokesman for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office Doron Spielman told Fox News on November 6 that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "has been working with President Trump to make the correct transition out from aid towards partnership and mutual investment."
  - » On November 5, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee remarked that he was "not sure" whether U.S. aid to Israel would stop at the end of 2026 or once the current U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expires in 2028.

  - He added that President Trump's announcement that U.S. aid to Israel will terminate by year's end was not a mistake, noting, "We're wanting to move to a different relationship where it does not look like a package of aid, but rather a relationship of trade."

» In August 2026, JINSA released the report *Shifting the Center of Gravity: Transforming the U.S.-Israel Security Partnership*, which recommended shifting the U.S.-Israel relationship to true mutual collaboration and signing a final MOU providing $3.8 billion annually on average to Israel for the next decade.

- Asked about reports that Iran is reviewing proposals for their nuclear program, President Trump told reporters on November 5 that the Iranians are "not doing anything without our approval."

» Reiterating earlier threats, President Trump warned, "now, we will make a decision. Do we want to go further and certify it? By certifying it, meaning it will never happen again…. I would rather not destroy the rest of the country if possible, but maybe I will have to. You will know soon enough."




## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

*Iran*

- On November 6, *Bloomberg* reported that indirect U.S.-Iran talks have made progress, as Iran is reportedly showing more flexibility about a Qatari-brokered draft agreement. *Bloomberg*, citing an unnamed diplomat, reported that Iran is "showing a willingness to discuss issues related to its nuclear program that were previously off the table."

» According to a senior Iranian official speaking to Reuters on November 5, Iran has shared a nuclear proposal with the United States through Qatar.

  - The official shared that Iran is only willing to discuss the proposal once the United States meets its seven demands, which include lifting sanctions, restoring Iran's access to frozen assets, and providing compensation for damage caused by the war.

- On November 6, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani called President Trump, urging him to avoid escalating tensions with Iran.

» Al Thani also highlighted the need to ensure safe transit in the Strait of Hormuz and guarantee energy security for the region.

- On November 5, Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei traveled to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where Rezaei reportedly shared a message with him on behalf of Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei. Previously, throughout October, Russian and Iranian leaders held three separate high-level meetings.

» That day, *The Guardian* reported that Russian leaders agreed to supply Iran with 90 advanced missile launchers in 2024 as part of a broader defense relationship that has increased in recent years.

*Syria*

- On November 5, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the Houthis are demanding Saudi Arabia pay the group $51 billion in exchange for halting attacks on the kingdom.
  - » According to the *Journal* article, the high price tag to suspend attacks would "cover the cost of years of Saudi strikes and a long blockade."

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

- Speaking to Israel's Channel 12, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee defended U.S. assistance to Israel, stating that "what Americans didn't understand… is that $3.8 billion [in aid to Israel], which is a tiny, really small figure in the great scheme of the American budget, but all of that money is used, spent back in the United States for Israel to be buying the things that helped them make the Iron Dome, the David Sling, the Arrow Three missile system, purchasing F-35s, F-15s, F-16s, Apache helicopters, many of the things that Israel uses to defend its freedom and to defend its democracy."
- On November 4, the U.S. Treasury Department released a statement that it had sanctioned "India-based Suniel Kumar Sharma and his spouse, Jaspreet Preeti Shahid, who have supported Iran's shadow fleet through a web maritime fraud," as well as Turkey-based Fugo Ground Services Inc. for its "ongoing services in support of Iran's aviation sector."

*Yemen*

- On November 6, the Houthi-run health ministry in Yemen claimed that strikes on a market in al-Waziyah, Taiz governorate, killed 20 people and injured 15 people.
  - » While the health ministry blamed the strikes on the Saudi-led coalition, authorities in Taiz accused the Houthis of carrying out the attack.
- On November 5, the Houthi-run health ministry announced, without any evidence, that two Saudi airstrikes on a farm in the Saada governorate killed seven people and wounded six others.

## 4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

*Maritime*

- On November 6, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) alleged that two oil tankers struck naval mines and caught fire while attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian state media.
- According to *Wall Street Journal* reporting on November 6, some shippers are sending emails to a Houthi-run entity called the "Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center" to receive confirmation that they could safely transit the Red Sea.
  - » *The Journal* found that many of the emails from captains highlighted that their vessels have no links to the United States, United Kingdom, Israel, or Saudi Arabia.
- On November 5, one person was killed when a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker was attacked in the Persian Gulf. The ship's manager said the ship was struck by a missile.
- On November 5, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center reported that a tanker transiting outbound through the Strait of Hormuz experienced an explosion at its port-side waterline approximately 16 nautical miles east of Khasab, Oman. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel continued its voyage under its own power.

- On November 5, the IRGC claimed that two oil tankers and a tugboat caught fire in separate incidents while attempting to transit unauthorized routes through the Strait of Hormuz.
  - » According to the IRGC, one tanker struck a naval mine while crossing a passage south of the Strait, while a second supertanker caught fire while exiting an eastern shipping route.
- On November 4, UKMTO reported that a tanker was struck by two unidentified projectiles approximately 50 nautical miles north of Madinat ash Shamal, Qatar. The status of the crew, extent of damage, and potential environmental impact remained unconfirmed.

*Saudi Arabia*

- On November 6, the Saudi-led coalition shot down a drone targeting Mecca, the holiest city in Islam.
- On November 6, air defenses shot down two Houthi ballistic missiles targeting the Saudi city of Najran, resulting in debris falling in the area.
- On November 5, the Saudi-led coalition shot down a Houthi ballistic missile targeting the kingdom's Medina region.

*Turkey*

- On November 5, Turkey's Defense Ministry announced that a Turkish soldier had been killed on October 1 by gunfire believed to have originated from Iranian territory while responding "to an illegal [border] crossing" in Hakkari province.
  - » Turkish and Iranian officials met at the site on November 3, and both countries launched investigations into the incident.

## 5. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On November 6, Iranian lawmaker Musa Musavi urged Iranians to limit their gas use as winter nears, citing "supply imbalances," according to *Iran International*.
- On November 6, Iranian security forces shot and killed two men in southeastern Iran's Sistan and Balochistan Province. The incident was the latest in a series of violent crackdowns by Iran against its Baloch minority, which is concentrated in southeast Iran.
  - » The U.S.-based NGO Human Rights Activists News Agency has recorded 63 cases of armed clashes between authorities and Iranian Baloch citizens between March 30 and October 10. At least 94 people were killed in those clashes.
  - » According to *IranWire*, IRGC forces have been placing landmines along roads in Baloch-majority areas in recent days, causing multiple casualties.

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

- On November 6, Aliakbar Velayati, the international relations advisor for Iran's supreme leader, posted on X that "a tsunami of geopolitical changes in West Asia swept up the Israeli and U.S. elections." Velayati added, "Iran is now one of the main architects of the regional order, a reality that cannot be erased or replaced."
- Iranian Cleric Ahmad Alamolhoda announced during his sermon on November 6 in Mashad, Iran, "It makes no difference which party is in power in America. Democrats and Republicans are no different in their hostility toward the Islamic Republic."
- Iranian Cleric Lotfollah Dezhkam, the representative for Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei in Fars Province, stated on November 6 that Iran possesses the technical ability to produce a nuclear weapon and questioned whether a change in Iran's nuclear policy is necessary given current threats.

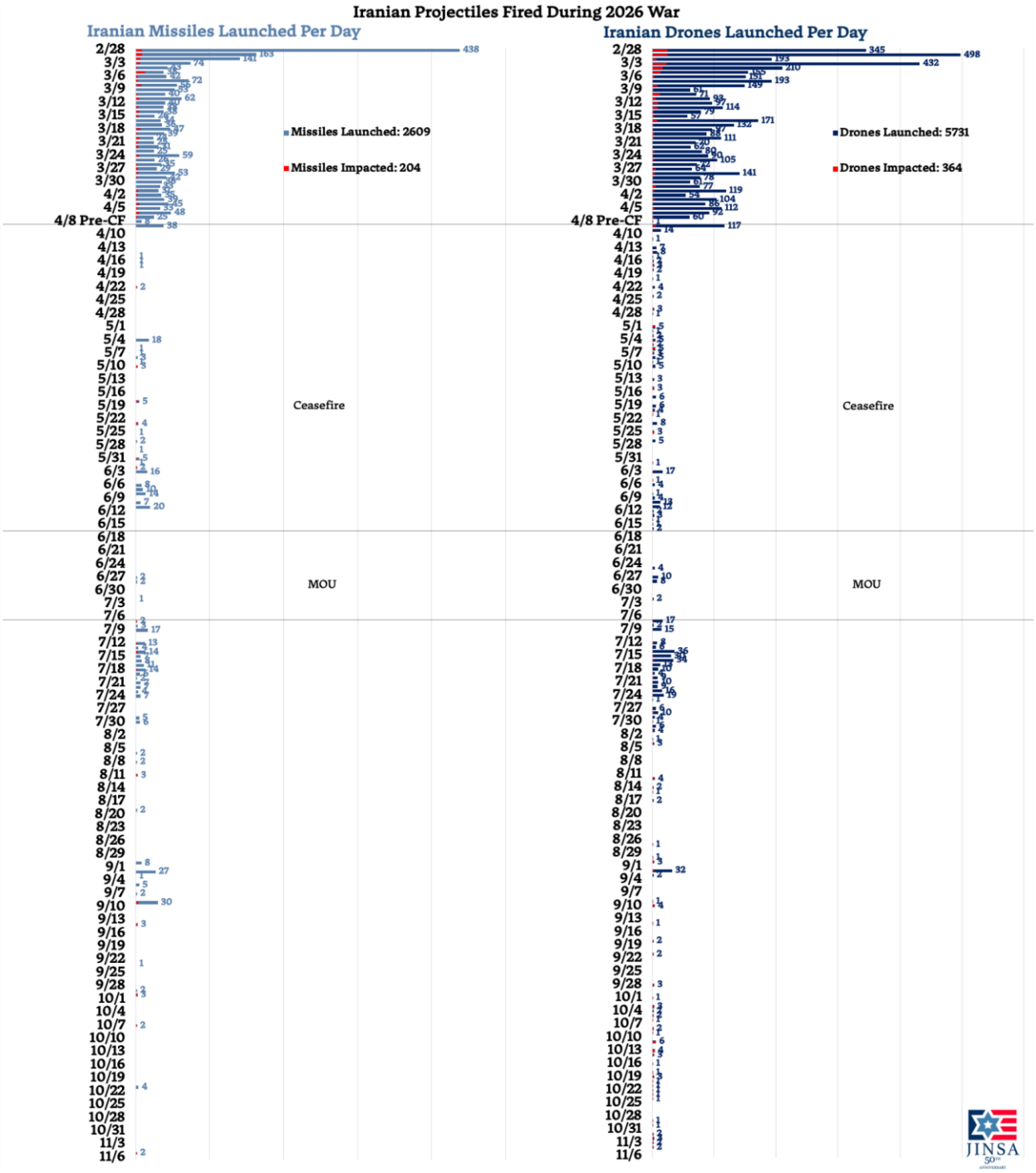
» In addition, Dezhkam called for bolstering Iran's missile capabilities.

## 7. International Response

- On November 5, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) confirmed that following the mission's expiration on December 31, it will begin withdrawing troops from the region.
  - » However, UNIFIL also ensured that until the mandate expires, "peacekeepers from 45 countries will continue their daily operations as usual across south Lebanon, including monitoring and reporting developments, liaising with the parties, supporting the Lebanese Army, and facilitating humanitarian missions."
  - » Additionally, UNIFIL stated that, "The Security Council is considering options for the period after UNIFIL's mandate ends, including future monitoring and reporting along the Blue Line," adding, "decisions on any future arrangements rest with the Security Council."

## 8. JINSA Resources

- 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: 2609
Missiles Impacted: 204
Ceasefire
MOU
Iranian Drones Launched Per Day
Drones Launched: 5731
Drones Impacted: 364
Ceasefire
MOU
JINSA