Iran War Update: November 7–9, 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 9 at 9:45 am ET.

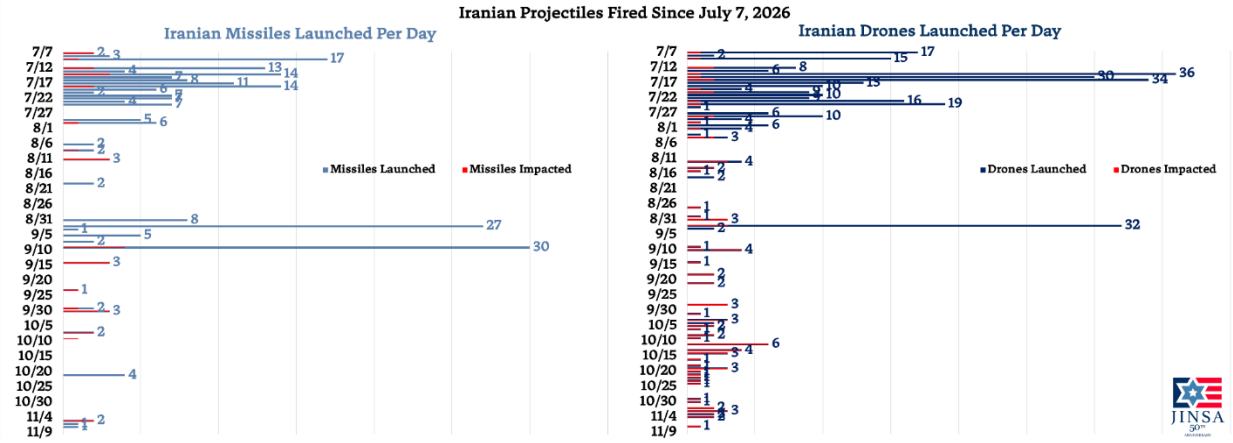
Iranian missiles and drones launched since July 7: **At least 620** (3 on November 6–9)

Brent Crude Oil Price: **$93.59 a barrel as of 9:00 am ET** (day range: $93.57–98.43)

1. Overview

- On November 8, President Donald Trump told CNN that it is "highly unlikely it's going to be necessary" for him to order a return to major combat operations against Iran, adding that "they're a failing nation… I would if necessary, but we hit them really hard… They're withering away financially. We've hit them militarily. We could finish them off."
  - » He added that "it depends on whether or not they sign a very strong agreement," and that he does not want to target Iranian infrastructure "because, essentially, it'll take 10 years to rebuild them… I don't like ripping down bridges."
  - » On November 9, oil prices dropped significantly following President Trump's comments. The Brent crude oil benchmark fell by 3.5 percent, to $94.93 per barrel, while the WTI benchmark fell by 3 percent to $88.13 per barrel.
- On November 8, President Trump announced on Truth Social that "Task Force Iron Gate is in full force and effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran," noting that "Coupled with history's greatest Naval Blockade, very little gets into, or out of, Iran!"
  - » On November 7, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced the establishment of Task Force Iron Gate, a new CENTCOM team that will "monitor, detect, and disrupt any illicit movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams."
- On November 8, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X, "Our 2-day proposal stands: meet the requirements, including end to war on all fronts, and you will see results." Otherwise, he warned, "choose war, and see our alert and battle-hardened Warriors rain down hell."
- On November 7, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced it was lifting a self-imposed 1,200-mile range limit on its ballistic missiles.

- On November 7, President Trump confirmed that the United States conducted "minor" military action against Iran, noting that the Iranians "built a little bit of an anti-aircraft device and we knocked it out in about 15 minutes, maybe five."
  - » Iranian media also reported a U.S. attack on Qeshm Island overnight on November 8–9.
- According to NBC News reporting on November 7, advisors to President Trump have alerted him that, should he want to resume major combat operations against Iran, he should pursue this course of action before the next Congress is sworn in in January, as it could take action to hinder military operations in Iran.
  - » NBC News reported that another factor is that "the deployments of so many ships, aircraft and troops [to the Middle East] is hurting military readiness," according to U.S. defense officials.
- On November 6, the U.S. State Department's Rewards for Justice program offered a reward reaching $20 million, as well as potential relocation, in exchange for information on the Iranian nuclear program.
- On November 6, *The Telegraph* reported that Iran is in discussions with Russia to acquire advanced S-400 air defense systems.
  - » Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei reportedly traveled to Moscow that day to deliver a letter from Ayatollah Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin requesting the system.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On November 9, Reuters reported that President Trump will meet with Qatari leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in Washington later that day to discuss Iran negotiations. Senior U.S. and Arab officials told Reuters that a deal is unlikely to materialize soon.
  - » Previously, on November 7, Qatari leaders said talks were not progressing, and that Qatar's mediation role was preventing the situation from getting even worse.
- On November 9, the Emirati agency Erem News reported that Washington has proposed a phased plan to Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, beginning with the partial lifting of the U.S. blockade, citing diplomatic sources informed on the negotiations.
  - » In the second phase of the plan, the United States and Iran would engage in nuclear negotiations, sanctions on Iran would be gradually lifted, and Iran's frozen funds would be released.

  - » Tehran has not conveyed a response to the U.S. proposal, and is seeking written commitments from Washington and concrete steps to lift the U.S. blockade and release Iranian assets.
- On November 9, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian indicated that "the supreme leader ordered us to end the no-war, no-peace situation," adding that "we can hold talks with dignity and bring the matter to an end with dignity."
- On November 9, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei stated, "Tehran will only sign and implement an agreement that fully secures the national interests and legal rights of the Iranian nation" and lauded Pakistan and Qatar's mediation efforts.
  - » He noted that reaching a deal is contingent on the Trump administration understanding "the sentiments of its own society," claiming that Tehran's proposal is "the most logical, operational, and structured roadmap."
  - » In response to comments from Secretary Rubio a day earlier that Iranian demands in negotiations were "ridiculous," Baghaei noted that "the US attack on Iran in the middle of negotiations is what is outrageous and ridiculous."
  - » Baghaei also confirmed that "a few days ago," the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) conducted an inspection of Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant.
- On November 9, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported that Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi had made an unannounced visit to Tehran on November 6 to meet Iranian chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and discuss efforts to end the war.
- On November 9, AFP reported that European foreign ministers are expected to press Secretary of State Marco Rubio over the Iran war at the G7 summit. Specifically, AFP reported, they plan to pressure America to "steer clear of any new escalation with Iran."
- On November 8, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio remarked that talks with Iran have not "been very productive" as "the Iranian demands are simply not just unacceptable, but in some cases, outrageous and ridiculous, and really not realistic."
  - » He noted that there are "a number of countries that continue to engage them [Iran] with different ideas, but I wouldn't say we're on the verge of a breakthrough."

Lebanon

- On November 6, the State Department declared the Lebanese Consul General in Michigan, Ibrahim Charara, *persona non grata* and ordered him to depart the country by November 8 due to social media posts he published in 2021 that praised the 1983 Hezbollah attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut.

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

Iran

- On November 9, an Iranian official claimed that a U.S. attack on Qeshm Island overnight did not cause damage to vital infrastructure or services, following reports of explosions in the area late on November 8.
- On November 7, Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported that two missiles attacked the Suza area of Qeshm Island, following reports of explosions in the area.
- On November 7, President Trump wrote a Truth Social post comparing the Iran conflict to the Iraq War, posting a photo of former Vice President Dick Cheney with the caption "Saddam is a threat. I need 170K troops and 8 years. 4,400 Americans will die," above a photo of himself with the caption, "Ayatollah Khamenei is a threat. I need 12 hours and 900 missiles."
- When asked about Vice President J.D. Vance's comments that the Iran War hurt Republicans in the U.S. midterm elections, Secretary of State Marco Rubio responded that

President Trump took action “even though oftentimes the right thing to do for the country — confronting difficult challenges for the security of our country — doing it isn’t necessarily popular, but necessary.”

- On November 7, CENTCOM established Task Force Iron Gate, which is tasked with “coordinat[ing] with other U.S. government agencies on preventing the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea,” per a statement from CENTCOM.
  - » The task force is composed of “approximately 20 civilian and military personnel based in Tampa, Florida.”
- On November 6, the U.S. Rewards for Justice program announced a maximum reward of $20 million and potential relocation in exchange for details on the Iranian nuclear program, including individuals involved, such as those with science-related positions, nuclear sites, and equipment, or information on the movement of any of the listed assets.

Iraq

- On November 8, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said the U.S. Treasury Department had asked that Iraq close all but two border crossings with Iran, including one in the Kurdistan Region, as part of Washington’s efforts to increase economic pressure on Tehran.

Lebanon

- Lebanese media reported on November 9 that the Israeli military struck locations in the towns of Kfar Tebnit and Qantara. According to the *Times of Israel*, the strikes may have involved the “demolition of Hezbollah infrastructure.”
- On November 8, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced that 200 meters from a United Nations (UN) post in the southern Lebanese town of Mays al-Jabal, it discovered two weapons and equipment stockpiles inside a civilian home.
  - » 100 meters from the same UN site, the forces also uncovered more weapons.
  - » Additionally, Israeli troops operating in At-Tiri in southern Lebanon discovered a Hezbollah apartment full of combat gear, surveillance equipment, and other Hezbollah supplies 250 meters from a UN post.
  - » Following the discoveries, the IDF claimed that the findings are “further evidence that the UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] force has failed in its mission, and of the cynical exploitation by terror organizations in the face of UNIFIL’s inaction.”

Strait of Hormuz

- On November 7, CENTCOM announced that U.S. forces had disabled the St. Kitts-flagged cargo vessel M/V Huda in the Gulf of Oman after it repeatedly ignored warnings and attempted to violate the U.S. naval blockade against Iran. A U.S. military aircraft struck the vessel’s stern with precision munitions after directing its civilian crew to evacuate the targeted areas.
  - » CENTCOM said U.S. forces had redirected 147 commercial vessels and disabled five others attempting to violate the blockade since July, in addition to destroying 10 Iranian oil tankers allegedly linked to the IRGC’s shadow oil network.
  - » In addition, CENTCOM shared in a statement that the U.S. naval blockade has inhibited Iranian oil exports worth $25 billion.

Yemen

- On November 8, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen announced that its forces struck and destroyed three Houthi missile launchers in Saada that the rebel group used to carry out attacks on Saudi Arabia earlier in the day.

- On November 7, Houthi-affiliated media reported that a Saudi airstrike on the Al-Shariya area of Yemen's Houthi-controlled Sanaa province had killed at least 22 people, most of them women and children, and wounded 30 others, according to the Houthi-run Saba news agency and Al-Masirah TV.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

Iraq

- On November 8, two security sources and an engineer on site claimed that a drone attacked a gas storage facility at Iraq's Khor Mor gas field in the Kurdistan region, resulting in suspended production.

Maritime

- On November 9, Emirati officials in Khor Fakkan, 20 miles south of Hormuz, announced that an oil spill prompted them to close a beach.
  - » While the authorities did not provide any additional details on their announcement, recent attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz have resulted in several oil spills throughout the war.
- On November 9, an official from the IRGC told state media that "navigational aid systems in the south of the Strait of Hormuz were destroyed and no unauthorized vessels transited the maritime route overnight." It was unclear what navigational systems he was referencing.
- On November 8, the IRGC announced that "three noncompliant tankers have exploded and caught fire while they were sailing in the illegal channel in the Strait of Hormuz."
- On November 8, after a cargo ship caught fire in the Sea of Oman, the national guard of the United Arab Emirates announced that it rescued the ship's 22-person crew, all of whom are Arab nationals.
- On November 7, the Iranian navy announced that a ship in the eastern Strait of Hormuz hit a naval mine, prompting it to catch fire.
  - » That same day, a tanker 8 nautical miles northwest of Khasab, Oman, caught fire, resulting in the ship evacuating its crew members.
  - » Also on that day, an unknown projectile struck a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, but the tanker's crew is safe, and the attack caused no environmental damage.
- On November 7, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center reported that an incident in the Gulf of Oman 18 nautical miles east of Khor Fakkan involving military personnel and a bulk carrier occurred, but that investigations into the damage and crew's status are ongoing.
- On November 5, a tanker master reported that an attack caused an explosion on the waterline of his ship 16 nautical miles east of Khasab, Oman, but that the crew is safe and that the ship would continue its voyage.

Outside the Middle East

- On November 8, *Iran International* reported, citing a leaked confidential Oil Ministry letter and ministry sources, that Tehran had acquired control of oil terminals and storage facilities in China to facilitate sanctioned Iranian crude exports and circumvent U.S. restrictions on its shadow fleet.
  - » According to the report, Iran secured port facilities in Ningbo-Zhoushan, Qingdao, and Shandong province, along with seven oil storage tanks, enabling vessels linked to sanctioned oil trader Hossein Shamkhani to deliver crude directly to Chinese refineries.

Saudi Arabia

- On November 9, Saudi authorities issued aerial threat warnings via text messages to Riyadh residents, and then lifted the alert a short time later.
- On November 8, the Saudi-led coalition shot down two Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Riyadh.
  - » Falling debris from the Houthi projectiles fell in Riyadh, causing damage to a Saudi Aramco administrative building in the King Abdullah Financial District.
- On November 8, the Saudi-led coalition intercepted a Houthi ballistic missile targeting Saudi Arabia's Eastern region.
- On November 7, the Saudi-led coalition shot down a Houthi cruise missile targeting Riyadh.
- On November 7, the Houthis claimed to have carried out six missile and drone attacks against Saudi Aramco facilities, military personnel across Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

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

- On November 9, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei stated that IAEA officials "failed to fulfill their legal obligations by adopting positions that overlook the culpability and wrongdoing in the aggression against Iran's facilities."
- On November 8, IRGC spokesperson Gen. Hossein Mohebbi dismissed the U.S. military's newly launched Task Force Iron Gate as "merely a wordplay" and argued the United States cannot achieve its "objectives of imposing severe economic pressure to cause economic collapse" through the task force.
- On November 7, Gen. Mohebbi announced Iran's self-imposed 2,000-kilometer limit on ballistic missile ranges "has been lifted," signaling Tehran's intention to develop longer-range strike capabilities.
- On November 7, Iranian army spokesperson Mohammad Akraminia claimed that Iran's armed forces "are stronger than they were at the beginning of the war" as a result of experience gained from direct combat with U.S. and Israeli forces.

6. International Response

- On November 9, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed concern over potential renewed U.S. strikes against Iran and said he had reached out to President Donald Trump, emphasizing that "it is possible to resolve these issues through dialogue and diplomacy."
- On November 7, a Syrian diplomatic source told Syrian state news agency SANA that reports claiming Syria was planning to send troops to Yemen to support operations against the Houthis were false.

7. 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

