



Iran Summary November 2023

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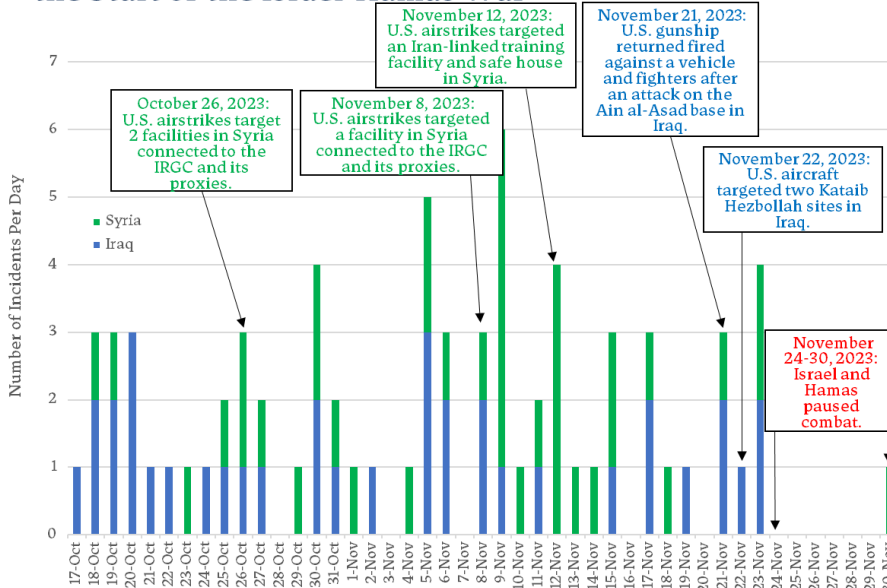
November 2023 Summary Iran and its proxies continued to engage in and support Hamas' war against Israel, following the brutal attacks it carried out on October 7. Iran-backed groups carried out at least 74 attacks on U.S. forces in the region, according to [JINSA's Iran Projectile Tracker](#), since the beginning of [the Israel-Hamas War](#). There were also at least five Iran-linked maritime harassment incidents and attacks during November, more than any month this year. Iran-linked hacking groups [attacked](#) U.S. critical infrastructure, targeting a water system in Pennsylvania, and are suspected of [carrying out](#) spoofing attacks against commercial aircraft in the region. At home, the Islamic Republic carried out executions at a staggering rate, likely taking advantage of the world media's diverted attention to crack down at home. View JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage for the latest analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict.

Regional Aggression and Involvement in Israel-Hamas War:

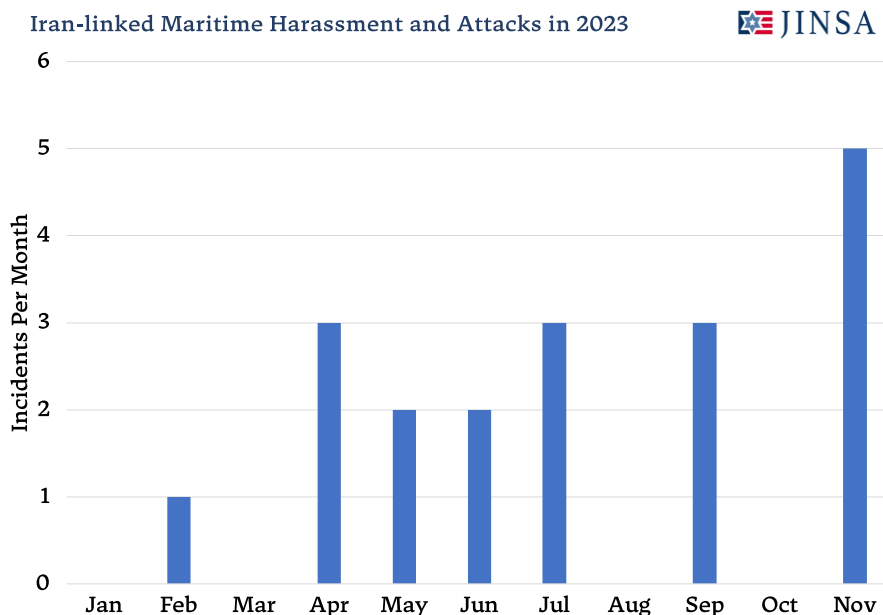
Iran-backed Hamas terrorists continued to wage war against Israel. Iran-backed groups continued striking U.S. troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria and targeting U.S. naval ships operating in the region.

- Since October 17, Iran-backed groups have [carried out](#) at least 74 attacks on U.S. troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria.
 - » There have been 46 such [attacks](#) in November alone: 27 in Syria and 19 in Iraq.
 - » At least 60 American troops have been [injured](#), about half of whom sustained traumatic brain injuries during the Iran-backed attacks since October 17.

Iran-backed Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since  JINSA the Start of the Israel-Hamas War



- Iran-backed groups also launched at least five attacks in November near or at U.S. naval assets in the region.
 - » On November 29, the USS *Carney* [shot down](#) a drone launched by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels which approached the U.S. Navy warship in the Bab el-Mandeb strait.
 - » On November 28, an Iranian drone [flew](#) dangerously close to the U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Eisenhower, as it sailed through international waters in the Arabian Gulf. The drone ignored multiple warnings from the U.S. ship.
 - » On November 26, the USS *Mason* was [targeted](#) by two-ballistic missiles launched from Houthi-controlled Yemen, after the US. Navy destroyer responded to a distress call from a commercial shipping vessel, the *Central Park*, in the Gulf of Aden. The *Central Park* is a Liberian-flagged, Israeli-linked tanker.
 - » On November 23, US Central Command [said](#) the USS *Hudner* had shot down “multiple one-way attack drones launched from Houthi controlled areas in Yemen” towards the U.S. Navy destroyer operating in the Red Sea.
 - » On November 15, the USS *Hudner* [shot down](#) a drone launched from Houthi territory that approached the U.S. Navy destroyer in the Red Sea.
 - » On November 8, the Iran-backed Houthis [shot down](#) a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone operating in international airspace off the coast of Yemen.
- There were at least five Iran-linked maritime harassment incidents and attacks in November, more incidents than during any other month this year. In addition to the three projectile attacks against targets at sea on November 23, 26, and 28, the Houthis also targeted two commercial shipping vessels.
 - » On November 25, a container ship [managed](#) by an Israeli-controlled company was damaged by a suspected Iranian drone while operating in the Indian Ocean.
 - » On November 19, Iran-backed Houthi rebels [seized](#) an Israeli-linked cargo ship, *Galaxy Leader*, in the Red Sea.
 - Houthi military official Major General Ali Al Moshki said on November 20 to the organization’s Al Massirah television station that “Israeli ships are legitimate targets for us anywhere...and we will not hesitate to take action.”



- Iranian regime officials and their proxies indicated clear support for Hamas’s brutal attack against Israel on October 7.
 - » On November 29, speaking about Hamas’ October 7 terror attacks, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei [said](#), “this historic event, in the true sense of the word, was able to disrupt America’s policies in this region, and God willing, this storm will continue and will erase America’s agenda.”
 - He added, “Today, politics and orientation in this region are about getting rid of America. One of the clear and prominent signs that is evident today is the Al-Aqsa Storm. Yes, this storm is against the Zionist regime, but it is about getting rid of America.”
 - » On November 22, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian [arrived](#) in Lebanon for meetings with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, as well as Ziad al Nakhleh, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and other PIJ and Hamas officials.
 - » On November 16, Iranian Quds Force Commander Esmail Qaani [wrote](#) a letter to senior Hamas leader, Mohammed Deif, saying, “the letter reportedly states, “your brothers in the resistance axis stand united with you and will not allow the enemy to reach its dirty goals in Gaza and Palestine. We stand by our fraternal pledge that unites us and we assure you that we will do whatever it takes in this historic battle.”
 - » On November 11, while speaking at the Arab League and Organization of Islamic Cooperation emergency summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi [said](#) that the only solution to the conflict is a Palestinian state “from the river to the sea.”
 - » On November 11, the leader of the Iran-backed terror group, Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, [said](#), “Iran is the power we need to thank for supporting Islamic ‘resistance’ movements in the region” because it has “supported us financially, materially, diplomatically and militarily.”
 - » On November 6, U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights [reported](#) that senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah leaders met in al-Bukamal, Syria to discuss supporting Iran-backed militias and Hamas.
 - » On November 5, Iranian state media [reported](#) that the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, traveled to Iran to meet with Ayatollah Khamenei.
 - » On November 5, Iranian Minister of Defense Mohammad Reza Ashtiani [told](#) the regime’s semi-official *Tasnim News Agency*, “Our advice to the Americans is to immediately stop the war in Gaza and implement a ceasefire, otherwise they will be hit hard.”
 - » On November 2, Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh [traveled](#) to Iran, according to IDF spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari.
 - » On November 1, Ayatollah Khamenei [called on](#) Muslim countries to boycott Israel and deprive it of food and oil, saying, “The path of oil and food exports to the Zionist regime should be stopped.”

Russia Ties: Tehran and Moscow continued to deepen their military cooperation.

- On November 28, Iran’s deputy defense minister [announced](#) that the Islamic Republic had secured a deal with Russia to purchase Sukhoi-35 fighter jets.
 - » Iran’s semi-official *Tasnim News Agency* [reported](#) that Russia plans to deliver an unspecified number of Su-35 fighter jets, Mil Mi-28 attack helicopters, and Yakovlev Yak-130 jet trainers to the Islamic Republic.

- On November 21, U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby [said](#) that there has been “unprecedented defense cooperation” between Russia and Iran recently and that the United States has information that “indicates that Wagner [Group], at the direction of the Russian government, was preparing to provide an air defense capability to either Hezbollah or Iran.”
 - » Kirby also [said](#) that the U.S. is, “therefore concerned that Iran is considering providing Russia with ballistic missiles now for use in Ukraine.”

Domestic/Human Rights: Iran continued to carry out executions at a staggering rate—at least 600 this year and 114 since the Israel-Hamas war began. It also executed an eighth person in connection to the 2022 nationwide protests.

- As of November 3, the Islamic Republic [executed](#) at least 600 people in 2023, according to the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) group.
 - » Al Monitor [reported](#) that as of November 14, the Islamic Republic had carried out at least 114 executions since the Israel-Hamas War began.
 - » On November 1, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres [said](#) that Iran was carrying out executions at an “alarming rate.”
- Iran expelled 24,000 Afghan nationals. On November 27, Iran’s commander of the Border Guards in Khorasan Razavi province, Majid Shojai, [said](#), “within the past 10 days, the individuals, present in the country illegally, were identified and handed over to the Afghan government’s representative at the zero point of the Dogharoun region.”
- On November 24, Iran [executed](#) 17-year-old Hamidreza Azari after he gave a “forced confession” to an alleged murder he committed when he was 16. The regime’s state media falsely reported his age to be 18 years old.
- On November 24, the regime [executed](#) 22-year-old Milad Zohrevand, the eighth execution carried out by the Islamic Republic in connection to the 2022 nationwide protests that erupted following the murder of Mahsa Amini.
- On November 8, *Radio Free Europe* reported that Iran [violently arrested](#) at least nine more members of the country’s Baha’i minority and raided the homes of 20 Baha’i families in the western Iranian city of Hamadan.

Cyber: Iran continued to use cyberwarfare to undermine its adversaries, targeting commercial aircraft in the region and U.S. critical infrastructure.

- On November 25, the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, [was targeted](#) in a cyberattack by an Iran-backed group. The hackers, known as Cyber Av3ngers, took control of one of the municipal water stations and displayed a message, “You have been hacked. Down with Israel. Every equipment ‘made in Israel’ is Cyber Av3ngers legal target.”
- According to a November 21 *Axios* [report](#), at least 10 Iran-linked hacking groups are involved in the Israel-Hamas War, and another Iran-backed hacking group has targeted more than 150 Israeli organizations.
- On November 20, *Vice News* [reported](#) that “multiple commercial flights near Iran went astray after navigation systems went blind” in “spoofing” attacks that cause aircraft navigation systems to fail.
 - » *Iran International* [reported](#) that Iran is likely behind these attacks.

- On November 9, Microsoft [reported](#) that Iran-linked hacking groups had gained access to Israeli webcams.
 - » Their report contradicted the hackers' claims that they had compromised cameras at an Israeli military installation; Microsoft reported that the cameras "were located at scattered sites outside any one defined region."
- On November 9, cybersecurity company CrowdStrike's Counter Adversary Operations [re-reported](#) that the Iran-linked hacking group Imperial Kitten targeted organizations in Israel's transportation, logistics, and technology sectors in October.
- On November 6, the head of Israel's National Cyber Directorate, Gaby Portnoy, [said](#) he was concerned about an increase in Iranian cyberattacks against Israeli infrastructure, "They [Iran] know that they can act there more freely [in cyberspace] than in the physical space," he said, adding that "we are prepared for that as much as we can."

Recent JINSA Publications on Iran:

- November 22: ["First U.S. Strikes in Iraq Amid Iran-backed Escalation," Ari Cicurel](#)
- November 21: ["U.S. Iran Policy Unchanged Despite Iranian Involvement in 10/7," Zac Schildcrout and Alex Weinberg](#)
- November 21: ["United States Permits Iran to Receive Billions in Iraqi Payments," Gabriel Noronha](#)
- November 13: ["Iran-backed Escalation Against U.S. Forces Persists Despite 3rd Round of U.S. Strikes," Ari Cicurel](#)
- November 9: ["Iranian Regime Continues Escalation, Despite Limited U.S. Strikes," Ari Cicurel](#)
- November 7: ["Biden's Iran policy needs to match post-10/7 realities," The Hill, Michael Makovsky, PhD](#)
- November 3: ["In Speech, Nasrallah Explains Hezbollah's Role in War with Israel," Jacob Ollidort](#)
- November 3: ["Houthi Attacks Highlight Need for Developing Regional Integrated Air Defenses," Zac Schildcrout](#)