



## Iran Attacks Cargo Ship, Testing Trump's Deal to Reopen Strait

*June 25, 2026 Wall Street Journal* reported: "Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps attacked a Singapore-flagged cargo ship Thursday in the Strait of Hormuz, according to two senior U.S. officials, testing the deal signed last week by the U.S. and Iran to end the fighting and reopen the vital shipping lane.

A one-way attack drone maneuvered to the west side of the ship before it struck the vessel, according to one of the officials, an indication that the attack was deliberate. The attack damaged the ship's bridge but left no casualties, according to U.K. Maritime Trade Operations.

The incident took place near the coast of Oman hours after the Iranian paramilitary's navy warned ships not to use routes through the waterway that the regime hadn't sanctioned.

Shipping traffic through the global-energy chokepoint had begun to rebound this week, reaching its highest level since the war began, with 70 to 80 vessels on Wednesday making it through the neck of the Persian Gulf, according to ship trackers whose estimates vary..."

## The battle to bring Europe's biggest military into the EU

*June 24, 2026 telegraph.co.uk* reported: Ukraine began its long journey out of Russia's shadow and towards Europe in Kyiv's historic Maidan square.

More than 100 protesters were killed and over 1,000 injured on the barricades of Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) in 2014 as they demanded an end to Moscow's malign influence. Some 12 years and an invasion later, more than 100,000 people have died fighting for freedom.

And now, the EU has given Ukraine the green light to start formal membership negotiations with Volodymyr Zelensky's government. It is a once-unthinkable step on a long and difficult road of deep reforms and painful scrutiny amid high-stakes diplomacy and an existential war.

Ukrainians at the Maidan, where portraits of fallen protesters stand opposite a vast memorial to the war dead, told The Telegraph it was a fair reward for their sacrifice..."

## US-Iran deal may leave Netanyahu as biggest casualty - analysis

*June 24, 2026 jpost.com* reported: "The biggest casualty of the US-Iran deal may not be Israel's Iran strategy, but the political brand Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent decades constructing as the Israeli leader who could uniquely bend Washington to his will on Iran, analysts, former US officials, and diplomats say. Netanyahu built his political identity on an audacious assertion: that he alone could keep the US and Israel in strategic lockstep on Iran. Cultivating Republican support, he cast himself as the only Israeli leader capable of influencing successive US presidents and insisted that only sustained military pressure could contain Tehran.

At the height of his power, he was described by diplomats as the "American whisperer" - the Israeli leader who could pick up the phone and ensure Washington's strategic calculus aligned with that of Israel. No other Israeli prime minister, they note, addressed Congress as often or built such enduring political capital across the American political system.

But analysts say Washington and Tehran's interim pact to end the war that the US and Israel launched in February shows how that narrative has been reversed. Rather than shaping Washington's Iran policy, Netanyahu is now forced to accept it, as US President Donald Trump pursues a settlement that increasingly treats Israeli objections as constraints.

At home, the reckoning is equally stark, said former US official Dennis Ross. Netanyahu is increasingly boxed in between a US president intent on ending the conflict and a domestic base resistant to concessions, particularly in Lebanon, he said. Withdrawal risks political backlash, while escalation risks confrontation with Washington..."

## Poll Finds Strong Support for Trump's Iran Peace Deal

*June 23, 2026 Breitbart.com* reported: "A broad majority of Americans support efforts to quickly end the war with Iran through a negotiated agreement, according to a new Economist/YouGov survey that found widespread support for several key provisions included in President Donald Trump's proposed peace deal.



Benjamin Netanyahu  
Israeli Prime Minister

Trump signed a proposed peace framework during a dinner at the Palace of Versailles that seeks to bring an end to hostilities between the United States and Iran. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a roadmap for negotiating a broader agreement within 60 days. The proposal calls for both nations to halt military action immediately, refrain from future attacks against one another, and recognize each other's territorial integrity and national sovereignty. A recent Economist/YouGov poll shows that most Americans are ready to see the conflict with Iran come to an end. Out of nearly 1,700 citizens surveyed, a solid 66% think the U.S. should wrap things up with a deal as quickly as possible. This isn't just a one-sided sentiment—74% of Democrats and 61% of Republicans are on the same page about wanting a negotiated settlement. Almost 90% of people said they've been following the news about the proposed agreement.

Even though Americans are still split on the overall deal, they're actually on the same page about the main details. For instance, a solid 69% back the idea of Iran pausing its nuclear weapon development and talking out what to do with its enriched uranium. The exact same number—69%—agree with reopening the Strait of Hormuz to let commercial ships pass through toll-free for two months. It looks like even with all the political bickering over the big picture, most voters just want to see tensions drop and avoid another war in the Middle East..."

### **Digital euro clears key hurdle as EU seeks to break free from U.S. credit cards**

**June 23, 2026 Reuters** reported: "The European Central Bank secured key parliamentary backing on Tuesday for the launch of a digital euro, an electronic means of payments aimed at making the euro zone less reliant on U.S. credit cards at a time of fraying transatlantic relationships. The digital euro, essentially an electronic wallet guaranteed by the central bank but marketed by banks or fintech companies, will allow all euro zone residents to make payments online and in person.

Six years in the making, the ECB's digital cash has become a more pressing issue since Donald Trump returned to the White House, slapping tariffs on even established trade partners such as the European Union and raising fears that the U.S. could one day weaponize its dominance over payment networks like Visa and Mastercard.

The approval of draft rules by the economic committee of the European Parliament comes after three years of wrangling between the ECB and banks, which have been concerned about deposit outflows and lost revenues and sought to limit the scope of the project.

"The introduction of the digital euro would... reduce overreliance on non-European providers by becoming a pan-European means of payment and would bring the single currency into the digital era by giving Union citizens the freedom to opt to pay with central bank money in their daily transactions," the draft regulation says..."

### **After October 7, majority of Israelis support rebuilding the Temple, up from 30% in 2013**

**June 22, 2026 israel365news.com** reported: "Twelve years ago, only 30% of Israeli Jews supported rebuilding the *Beit HaMikdash*, the Holy Temple, on *Har HaBayit*, the Temple Mount. Today, that number stands at 55%. The shift did not happen gradually or quietly. It happened on October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists massacred 1,200 Israelis and shattered whatever remained of the Israeli public's assumptions about security, sovereignty, and the spiritual stakes of this conflict. A new survey commissioned by the Temple Mount Heritage Foundation and conducted by the Direct Polls Institute under pollster Shlomo Filber reveals a nation whose relationship to its holiest site has been transformed by trauma and war.



The survey, drawn from a representative sample of 1,010 Israeli adults aged 18 and older, found that 55% of Jewish Israelis now support the establishment of the Third Temple, with only 29% opposed and 16% undecided. Among those who support it, 38% regard the Temple as having both religious and national significance, 21% as purely religious, and 16% as primarily a national and historical matter. Just 13% called the Temple Mount too politically sensitive to pursue, a striking drop from the defensive posture that has governed Israeli government policy toward the site for decades.

The October 7 effect is written clearly in the numbers. Fully 42% of respondents said they feel a stronger connection to the Temple Mount and the aspiration to rebuild the Temple since the massacre. Among right-wing Israelis, that figure rises to 56%. Among those who identify as Religious Zionists, 71% said their connection to *Har HaBayit* had grown stronger since October 7. Only 7% of right-wing respondents said their connection had weakened..."