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## Iran has fired some 300 missiles at Israel, about half with cluster bomb warheads — IDF

*Bombs indiscriminately spread dozens of submunitions over radius of 10 kilometers, making interception challenging, military officials say, day after cluster bomb killed two*

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

10 March 2026, 9:56 pm



*Submunitions from an Iranian cluster bomb warhead ballistic missile crash down on Israel, March 5, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)*

**About half of the roughly 300 ballistic missiles Iran has launched at Israel in the current war carried cluster bomb warheads, according to Israel Defense Forces assessments published Tuesday, a day after the munitions killed two people and seriously wounded another in central Israel.**

**The data comes as Iran continues to fire missiles at Israel. On Tuesday, most of the missiles were intercepted, but one — carrying a**

**large warhead — exploded in an open area outside Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem, according to footage and first responders. No injuries were reported.**

**Cluster bomb warheads indiscriminately spread dozens of submunitions, each with several kilograms of explosives, over a radius of around 10 kilometers (6 miles).**

The interception of such missiles has been effective but challenging, military officials said, stressing that Israel's air defenses are not hermetic.

Iran also fired cluster munitions at Israel at least three times during the two countries' 12-day war in June, Amnesty International has said, based on analysis of photos and videos, as well as media reports.

Use of the munitions is banned under the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, whose over 100 signatories include much of Europe and Africa as well as the UK, Australia and Canada, but not Israel, Iran or the US.

The current war began on February 28 when the US and Israel launched a bombing campaign on Iran in a bid to topple its clerical leadership and destroy its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Iran has responded by launching hundreds of missiles and drones across the region, including at Israel. Iran's strikes in Israel have killed 12 people and wounded over 2,000, according to health authorities.

The IDF Home Front Command says Iran's missile fire at Israel has been aimed at population centers, along with military facilities and key infrastructure.

In recent days, the attacks have comprised just a small number of missiles at a time. The IDF believes Iran is struggling to carry out coordinated, larger barrages toward Israel.

On the first day of the war, some 90 ballistic missiles were fired toward Israel. The following day, the number dropped to around 60.

Over the following six days, roughly 20 missiles were fired each day in multiple salvos, each consisting of a small number of projectiles.

On Sunday and Monday, fewer than 20 missiles were launched on each day, also in small volleys or single missiles.

The IDF, meanwhile, reported that it has so far destroyed or disabled more than 300 Iranian ballistic missile launchers during strikes — about 60% of Iran’s total stockpile.

On Tuesday, the Israeli Air Force said it struck an armed ballistic missile launcher in western Iran overnight and killed several Iranian soldiers minutes before they could attack Israel.

After the soldiers were identified, preparing to launch the missiles, an IAF drone was dispatched to the area and “destroyed the missile launcher, and then eliminated the launch team, minutes before they were set to fire at the State of Israel,” the military said, publishing footage of the strikes. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-has-fired-some-300-missiles-at-israel-about-half-with-cluster-bomb-warheads-idf/>

## **US says it destroyed minelayers near Hormuz after Trump warns Iran not to mine strait**

***Trump threatens Tehran with consequences at ‘level never seen before’ if it targets key waterway; White House denies US escorting tankers after energy secretary posts, quickly deletes claim***

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies Today](#), 2:04 am



*US President Donald Trump speaks during a press conference at Trump National Doral in Miami, Florida, on March 9, 2026. (SAUL LOEB / AFP)*

**The US military said it destroyed 16 Iranian minelaying vessels near the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, after US President Donald Trump threatened unprecedented action against Tehran should it target the key waterway, through which roughly a fifth of global oil shipments travel.**

**“US forces eliminated multiple Iranian naval vessels, March 10, including 16 minelayers near the Strait of Hormuz,” the US**

**Central Command wrote on X, attaching a video showing some of the strikes. Trump had earlier put the number of minelayers destroyed Tuesday at ten, “with more to follow.”**

The statements came as American media reports claimed US intelligence picked up on signs that Iran was gearing up to mine the strait.

Following the reports, Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform Tuesday that “if for any reason mines were placed, and they are not removed forthwith, the military consequences to Iran will be at a level never seen before.”

“If, on the other hand, they remove what may have been placed, it will be a giant step in the right direction,” Trump said.

He added that the US would target minelaying boats in the strait with the same type of missiles the US has used to blow up alleged drug-trafficking vessels in the Caribbean. “They will be dealt with quickly and violently,” he said. Trump’s comments came after Tehran vowed that no Gulf oil would pass through the key waterway. Oil prices remain highly volatile over the virtual halt of shipping in the strait after the US and Israel on February 28 launched a bombing campaign in Iran in a bid to topple its clerical regime and destroy its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The White House has listed eliminating Iran’s navy as a key US military objective.

Earlier Tuesday, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright posted, and quickly deleted, a video in which he said the US would “step in to the insurance markets and ensure tankers to go through” the strait.

“A large oil tanker went through about 36 hours ago. I think you’ll see more of those coming,” said Wright in the deleted video.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt subsequently denied the statement, telling reporters that “the US Navy has not escorted a tanker or vessel at this time, though of course that’s an option the president has said he will absolutely utilize if and when necessary.”

Energy Department Spokesperson Ben Dietderich the clip was deleted from Wright’s official X account after it was determined that it was incorrectly captioned by department staff.

Wright and other US officials are “closely monitoring the situation” in the strait, and the US military is considering additional options to keep it open, “including the potential for our Navy to escort tankers,” Dietderich said. The prospect of military escorts could help reduce price pressures created by the war.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-says-it-destroyed-minelayers-near-hormuz-after-trump-warns-iran-not-to-mine-strait/>

## Iran downs Israeli drones as fighter jets maneuver to evade air defenses near missile launch sites

*Iran has shot down several Israeli drones during the war while surface-to-air missiles have also threatened fighter jets, forcing pilots to maneuver midair to avoid hits as the Israeli Air Force hunts missile launchers and works to curb Tehran's attacks*

[Elisha Ben Kimon](#) | 16:53

**Several Israeli unmanned aerial vehicles have been shot down in Iran during the war after Iranian forces launched surface-to-air missiles at them, according to Israeli officials. Those missiles, positioned near Iranian missile launch sites, have also posed a threat to Israeli Air Force fighter jets. In several cases, pilots were forced to perform evasive maneuvers in midair to avoid being hit.**

*Israeli Air Force strikes kill several operatives in Iran's ballistic missile and drone units  
(Video: IDF) [Go to website for video rdb](#)*

**The Israeli Air Force is currently operating at one of the most intense periods in its history, with forces stretched close to their operational limits in both Iran and Lebanon.**

**From the outside, the operations may appear routine, but each mission over Iran carries significant risks.**



*Israeli Air Force Drone (Photo: Elbit Systems)*

“Strikes in Iran involve enormous complexity,” a security official said. “The ability to take so many aircraft, fly for hours, refuel in the air, rearm and return safely is extremely complicated.”

According to the official, the achievement is not only due to the pilots but also to the aircraft and the extensive maintenance system that keeps them operational.

### **Drones hunting Iranian missile launchers**

Israeli forces are targeting Iran's surface-to-surface missile infrastructure along with command-and-control systems belonging to the Iranian regime.

*Israeli strikes across Iran*

*(Video: IDF) [Go to website for video rdb](#)*

Once Israel achieved aerial superiority, Israeli drones began patrolling wide areas of Iran, flying above launch sites identified by intelligence and working to prevent Iranian forces from firing missile barrages toward Israel. Unlike fighter jets, drones operate in areas with higher levels of threat and are therefore more exposed to Iranian air defenses.

Iran has deployed surface-to-air missiles near many missile launch sites in an effort to counter Israeli operations.



*Israeli F-35  
(Photo: IDF)*

Since the beginning of the campaign, several Israeli drones have been shot down.

At the same time, there have been a small number of incidents, the exact number is not publicly disclosed, in which Israeli pilots had to perform aggressive aerial maneuvers to evade incoming surface-to-air missiles.

“They place surface-to-air missiles near their surface-to-surface launch sites to threaten the aircraft, preventing

launches toward Israel,” the security official explained.

“If a fighter jet were hit and a pilot had to eject, it would be a dramatic event. Our pilots take risks constantly and do everything possible to complete the mission.”



F-35 (Photo: IDF)

### Iranian missile fire is declining

**The threat from Iranian missiles remains a major concern for Israel's civilian population, and the military continues aggressive efforts to neutralize it.**

**However, officials say the number of missiles launched toward Israel has already dropped significantly compared with earlier phases of the conflict.**

Exact figures remain classified, but the trend is clear.

During the first days of fighting, Iran launched dozens of missiles in a single wave. Over the past week, Iranian forces have typically fired only a handful at a time.

Israeli security officials attribute the decline to the extensive damage inflicted on Iran's missile launch infrastructure, factories and senior personnel responsible for operating the system.

According to a military source, Iran still possesses numerous launchers hidden inside tunnels but is struggling to deploy them.

"They have many launchers in underground tunnels," the source said. "They simply cannot bring them out and fire because aircraft are constantly operating above the launch areas. The threat has not disappeared."

### Additional targets under consideration

Israeli officials say Iran remains "covered with targets," giving the military a wide range of options.

Decisions about which sites to strike are made by the commander of the Israeli Air Force, although certain targets require approval from higher political authorities.

Officials emphasize that the Iranian public is not a target of the campaign.

"The Iranian people are not the target, and there is no intention of harming them," the security official said. "Pilots and planners do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties. Our strikes are directed only at regime targets."

He noted that energy infrastructure, such as oil facilities, could theoretically be targeted.

"Striking those sites is simply a matter of decision," he said. "We can operate freely in the skies. At the highest levels, they are weighing whether such attacks would serve Israel's interests."

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hyahxz0yze#autoplay>

## Iranian Revolutionary Guards orchestrated selection of new supreme leader — sources

**Senior source in Iran says the IRGC is now running the country after forcing through its choice of Mojtaba Khamenei, who has been silent since he was elevated to leadership post**

By [Parisa Hafezi](#) and [ANGUS MCDOWALL](#) Today, 2:59 am



**A banner is displayed at Valiasr Square in central Tehran on March 10, 2026, depicting Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (L) watching as his successor the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (C) hands over an Islamic Republic of Iran flag to his son and new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei (R). (AFP)**

**Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forced through the choice of Mojtaba Khamenei as the new supreme leader, seeing him as a more pliant version of his father who would back their hardline policies, bludgeoning aside the concerns of pragmatists, senior Iranian sources said.**

**Already very powerful, the IRGC have gained yet greater sway since the war began and quickly**

**overcame the misgivings of senior political and clerical figures whose opposition to the choice delayed the announcement by hours, the sources said.**

Adding to the concerns of those who opposed Khamenei's installation as supreme leader, he had still issued no statement by Tuesday evening, nearly 48 hours after his selection during a war that has killed more than a thousand Iranians.

Khamenei's selection, engineered by the IRGC, may add up to a more aggressive stance abroad and sterner internal repression, said the three senior Iranian sources, a reformist former official and another insider. Two of them said they feared the IRGC's domination of the system would further transform the Islamic Republic into a military state with only a thin veneer of religious legitimacy, undermining an already shrinking support base and allowing less room to address complex threats.

### **New leader may have been wounded in strike**

Though an influential backroom operator for decades spent running his father's office, Mojtaba Khamenei remains an obscure figure to many Iranians and may have been wounded in the US-Israeli strikes that killed his father. A state television anchor appeared to confirm widespread rumors Khamenei was hurt, describing him as a "janbaz," or "wounded veteran" of the Ramadan War, as Iran calls the current conflict. Reuters has not been able to confirm his condition.

That — and security fears after his father's assassination on February 28 — may explain his silence since the 88-member Assembly of Experts announced late on Sunday that they had elected him as the country's supreme leader.



*A member of the Revolutionary Guard flashes a victory sign while taking position as a man holds an Iranian flag under the Azadi, or freedom, monument tower during an annual rally marking 1979 Islamic Revolution at the Azadi square in Tehran, Iran, Feb. 11, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)*

Authority is most visibly held by the IRGC and the supreme leader's office, known as the beyt, which operates a parallel system of influence across the bureaucracy.

Any doubts over who was really in charge evaporated on Saturday when President Masoud Pezeshkian, part of a triumvirate mandated to rule during the gap between leaders, was forced into a climbdown after apologizing to Gulf states for attacks. Senior IRGC members

were furious at his apology, sources told Reuters.

One of the three senior sources, who said the IRGC were now running Iran, said the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had been able to rein in the corps, balancing its views against those of political and clerical elites in the system.

But even assuming the new leader is well enough to take the helm, the IRGC may now get the final say in major decisions in future, the source added.

Alex Vatanka, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, DC said: "Mojtaba owes his position to the Revolutionary Guards and as such he is not going to be as supreme as his father was."

### **Blunt IRGC message to back Khamenei**

The choice of leader constitutionally belongs to the Assembly of Experts, but in both elections of a new leader since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, it has been swayed by the advice of other power brokers.

When Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died in 1989, the kingmaker was influential politician Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who told the assembly that Khomeini had whispered Khamenei's name to him on his deathbed.

This time, the kingmaker was the IRGC and it was a lot blunter in its messages, all five of the sources said. The IRGC

used the argument that the war required a fast process and selecting a candidate who defied the United States.

*This handout photo released by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps's official website Sepanews on February 17, 2026, shows a rocket being fired during a military exercise by members of the IRGC and navy in the Strait of Hormuz. (SEPAH NEWS / AFP)*



Because their hall in the seminary city of Qom was bombed, the Assembly of Experts had to gather in a different — so far undisclosed location — and some of the members could not be present or even informed of the vote, said one member, Ayatollah Mohsen Heydari, on state television.

The body reached its quorum of two-thirds, he said, without specifying how many had in fact taken part, with 85-90% of those present backing Mojtaba Khamenei.

It was not clear how many of those not present might have backed or opposed him but the figures showed less than the unanimous decision the IRGC may have hoped for.

### Concerns about harder line

A group of ayatollahs had disliked the apparent hereditary succession and feared that the choice would alienate even many supporters of the ruling system, said two of the sources.

Behind the scenes, some clerics and members of the political establishment were trying to push for an alternative in numerous discussions over the past week, one of the sources said.

However, the reformist former official said the IRGC threatened critics of Khamenei's accession. The Islamic Republic insider said the IRGC contacted members of the assembly, prompting objections, but in the end they felt compelled to support him.

Khamenei's appointment was originally intended to be announced on Sunday morning, but only came late in the evening as a result of the lingering opposition to his choice, all five sources said.



A banner depicting Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei is displayed on the side of a highway in Tehran on March 10, 2026. (AFP)

As head of the beyt for many years under his father, Mojtaba Khamenei had built very close ties with the IRGC, particularly the second-tier commanders who have replaced the top generals killed in the war, one of the officials said.

The upshot, said the reformist former official, will be a foreign and domestic policy moving in a more radical direction with the IRGC finally having what they sought for years: full control. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-revolutionary-guards-orchestrated-selection-of-new-supreme-leader-sources/>

## Iran keeps up attacks on Gulf states, says not a 'single liter of oil' will ship out

**Woman killed, 8 people wounded in strike on residential building in Manama, Bahraini authorities say; Abu Dhabi state oil giant said forced to shutter refinery due to drone attack**

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) 10 March 2026, 7:44 pm



A photograph shows the damage in the aftermath of a drone strike in the Seef district of Manama, Bahrain, on March 10, 2026. (AFP)

**Iran launched new attacks on Tuesday at Gulf Arab countries as its Revolutionary Guards vowed not "a single liter of oil" would leave the Persian Gulf amid the US-Israeli bombing campaign on the Islamic Republic.**

**Authorities in Bahrain reported that the country, which hosts the US 5th Fleet, was attacked by three missiles and a drone on Tuesday, including an attack that hit a residential building in the capital,**

**Manama, killing a 29-year-old woman and wounding eight people.**

Saudi Arabia said it destroyed two drones over its oil-rich eastern region and Kuwait's National Guard said it shot down six drones.

In the United Arab Emirates, nine Iranian drones made impact on Tuesday while another 26 drones and eight missiles were intercepted, the Emirati Defense Ministry said. No injuries or deaths were immediately reported.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said a ship also likely came under attack in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Emirati capital Abu Dhabi, after a captain aboard reported seeing "a splash and heard a loud bang in proximity of a bulk carrier."

The possible attack on the bulk carrier would expand the radius of ongoing assaults against shipping by Iran during the war.

In total, six people have been killed and 122 others wounded in Iran's attacks on the UAE following the start of the US-Israeli bombing campaign in the Islamic Republic on February 28, the defense ministry said.



*A photograph shows a damaged building in the aftermath of a drone strike in the Seef district of Manama, Bahrain, on March 10, 2026. (AFP)*

Emirati officials said Tuesday that firefighters battled a blaze in the industrial city of Ruwais, home to petrochemical plants, following an Iranian drone strike. No injuries were reported. A source with knowledge of the situation told Reuters that a fire broke out within Abu Dhabi state oil giant ADNOC's Ruwais compound, and that the company had shut its refinery there as a precautionary measure, in the latest energy infrastructure disruption of the war. All other operations at the complex were continuing normally, the source said.

The complex is the site of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) facilities that can refine up to 922,000 barrels of oil a day and serves as the central hub for the emirate's downstream operations, including significant chemical, fertilizer and industrial gas plants.

Industry monitor IIR Energy said ADNOC was forced to shut the lone crude distillation unit at its 417,000 barrel-per-day Ruwais Refinery 2 (West), and is planning to undertake a plant-wide safety shutdown.

IIR said ADNOC had previously reduced operations at multiple units at its 400,000-bpd Ruwais Refinery 1 (East) by around 10% to 20% on March 6 due to the regional conflict.

ADNOC, the Abu Dhabi Media Office and the UAE foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

### **Gulf officials warn of 'catastrophic' consequences from energy market disruptions**

Iran's attacks have forced several countries to cut production as shipping in the vital Strait of Hormuz oil transit chokepoint, the Persian Gulf waterway through which roughly a fifth of global oil travels, has ground to a near halt. US President Donald Trump has [warned](#) that Iran could be hit "much harder" if it continues disrupting oil shipments.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) threatened that Iran "will not allow the export of even a single liter of oil from the region to the hostile side and its partners until further notice."

"Their [attempts](#) to reduce and control oil and gas prices will be temporary and ineffective," said Ali Mohamad Naeini. "Trade in wartime conditions is subject to security considerations."



*This handout photo released by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)'s official website Sepanews on February 16, 2026, shows a boat firing a missile during a military exercise by members of the IRGC and navy in the Gulf (SEPAH NEWS / AFP)*

Qatar, which has also been targeted by Iran amid the conflict, warned both sides of the war on Tuesday against attacks on civilian sites and energy infrastructure, saying it could result in a humanitarian disaster.

"This region cannot take these kinds of attacks on its facilities," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al-Ansari. "We will see a humanitarian catastrophe."

"We have seen these kinds of attacks on both sides

of the Gulf," he said, pointing fingers at both Iran and the US and Israel.

"The attacks on energy facilities, which have also happened on both sides, is a dangerous precedent," he said.

"What is happening right now is going to have grave consequences for the international economy."

The CEO of Saudi state oil giant Aramco, Amin Nasser, also warned of "catastrophic" consequences if the Strait of Hormuz closure continues.

“While we have faced disruptions in the past, this one by far is the biggest crisis the region’s oil and gas industry has faced,” Nasser said in a media call after the company posted its 2025 results.



***A thick plume of smoke rises from an oil storage facility hit by an Israeli strike late Saturday in Tehran, Iran, March 8, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)***

The comments came after the Israeli Air Force, in an apparent first, struck oil facilities in Tehran on Saturday, sparking some [criticism](#) even from the US, which, together with Israel, has been striking Iran in a bid to topple its clerical regime and destroy its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

A senior Gulf energy industry official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said stopping the Iran war is the only option to get oil and gas moving again through the Strait of Hormuz.

*Lazar Berman contributed to this report.*

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-keeps-up-attacks-on-gulf-states-says-not-a-single-liter-of-oil-will-ship-out/>

## **IDF: ‘Isolated failure’ allowed Hezbollah missiles to strike satellite station, Ramle**

***No sirens sounded in areas where long-range projectiles fired from Lebanon hit on Monday; IDF stresses ‘not a new threat’***

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

10 March 2026, 8:27 pm

This dashcam video shows a Hezbollah missile striking the SES Satellite Station in Haela Valley near Beit Shemesh, March 9, 2026. (Social media; used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

**An “isolated failure” resulted in two Hezbollah missiles impacting central Israel on Monday without being intercepted and without warning sirens sounding, the Israeli military said Tuesday after conducting an investigation.**

**Hezbollah fired several missiles from Lebanon in the attack, claiming to have targeted the IDF Home Front Command headquarters in Ramle, known as Rehavam Base, as well as a satellite communications station in the Ela Valley near Beit Shemesh.**

One of the missiles struck Ramle, damaging a daycare and lightly wounding 14 people. Another directly struck the satellite station, damaging its infrastructure and wounding two others, according to rescue services and police.

Air defenses intercepted the other missiles, the Israel Defense Forces said.

A dashcam video permitted for publication on Tuesday showed the missile impact at a satellite station.

Hezbollah claimed the satellite station belonged to the “Communications and Cyber Defense Division of the Israeli enemy army,” although the site is in fact not a military installation, but rather a civilian-commercial site operated by the European company SES.

**This dashcam video shows a Hezbollah missile striking the SES Satellite Station in Haela Valley near Beit Shemesh, March 9, 2026. (Social media; used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law)**

The site was established in 1972 by the Communications Ministry to transmit television and telephone signals where land connections were lacking. In 2008, it was privatized.

According to the military, attempts to shoot down the two missiles failed, and the impacts occurred without sirens sounding in the relevant areas.

The IDF described the incident as an “isolated failure,” adding that “this is not a new threat” and the Israeli Air Force “has intercepted similar threats in the past.”

The failure was investigated by both the Israeli Air Force, which is responsible for the interception, and the Home Front Command, which operates the warning system.

“Following the investigation, adjustments were implemented to strengthen interception capabilities against similar threats in the northern arena,” the military said.



**Damage to a classroom following a strike that hit a kindergarten in the central city of Ramle on March 9, 2026. (Ilia YEFIMOVICH / AFP)**

The IDF said Monday that the three Hezbollah launchers that had been used to fire the long-range projectiles at Israel were destroyed in airstrikes within an hour of the attack.

The terror group has been attacking Israel with renewed rocket and missile fire since last Monday, claiming it is in retaliation for the killing of Iran's late supreme leader, Ali Khamenei.

Israel, in response, has struck hundreds of Hezbollah targets across Lebanon, including dozens in Beirut, and the IDF has pushed ground forces deeper into southern Lebanon in what it

has said is a defensive measure to protect communities in northern Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-isolated-failure-allowed-hezbollah-missiles-to-strike-satellite-station-ramle/>

## **PM and Smotrich say Haredi draft exemption bill to be set aside to help fund Iran war** **Opposition leaders gloat after finance minister says legislation 'won't be promoted for now' as part of state budget, which must be approved by March 31 or the government will fall**

By [Sam Sokol](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 12:45 am



**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich issue a joint statement from Jerusalem, March 10, 2026. (Screenshot/GPO)**

**The government is putting aside controversial legislation to largely exempt members of Haredi communities from mandatory military enlistment, so the 2026 state budget can pass as fast as possible to help cover the cost of war with Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Tuesday.**

**The statement, which was met with declarations of victory from the opposition, came as**

**ministers voted overnight to slash the budgets of all ministries but defense by 3 percent, and to add NIS 28 billion (\$9 billion) to the NIS 112 billion (\$34 billion) defense budget.**

"This is not an expenditure. It's an investment," said Smotrich in a joint video statement with Netanyahu. "To succeed in this mission, we're putting aside contentious issues that aren't fitting in wartime."

"We're putting aside the enlistment law, which won't be promoted for now, as well as a number of reforms that have not gained wide support," said Smotrich, whose plan to expand dairy imports was [removed](#) from legislation accompanying the budget on Tuesday amid opposition from Netanyahu's Likud party.

"We wanted to bring more good news to the citizens of Israel in this budget, with an emphasis on the struggle against the cost of living," he said. "But the responsibility resting on our shoulders requires us to focus on passing the budget immediately for the security of the state and the welfare of its residents."



Netanyahu, in his remarks, hailed Israel's accomplishments in the ongoing bombing campaign that the United States and Israel launched against Iran on February 28 in a bid to topple its clerical regime and destroy its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

"There was no question — we had to go to war," said Netanyahu. "But — and there's a big but — it all costs money. A lot of money."

"That's why we need a special budget" with "tens of billions of shekels to help the defense budget in the war effort," he said.

**Interceptor missiles are fired at Iranian ballistic missiles over central Israel, March 9, 2026. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)**

The state budget passed its first reading in January with partial Haredi support, and needs to pass its second and third readings by March 31 or the government will fall, with a new election automatically called.

Multiple Hebrew reports amid the ongoing war with Iran have indicated that two of the Knesset's three Haredi factions would [likely support](#) the state budget, despite the government's failure to codify ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students' exemption from the draft. Netanyahu also [told](#) the pro-government outlet Channel 14 last week that the budget would pass before the enlistment law.

Hours before the statement by Smotrich and Netanyahu, the government on Tuesday [authorized](#) over NIS 5 billion (\$1.6 billion) in discretionary funds for Haredi institutions, West Bank settlements and other party priorities in the 2026 state budget, drawing [harsh condemnations](#) from the opposition.

Nonetheless, opposition leaders cheered the announcement Tuesday evening that the government was deferring the legislation on Haredi military service.

"For many months, we thwarted every possibility of advancing the law in the Knesset," wrote Opposition Leader Yair Lapid on X. "Tonight, Netanyahu and Smotrich admitted what we have long said: the despicable law has failed."



**UTJ MKs Yitzhak Goldknopf and Moshe Gafni at the Knesset plenum, Jerusalem, September 29, 2025. (Oren Ben Hakoon/Flash90)**

Former prime minister Naftali Bennett, the leading candidate to replace Netanyahu, wrote: "We won; we won big."

"The people of Israel: one. The Netanyahu government and the Haredim: zero," he added.

"After two years of determined struggle by the reservist organizations, by the entire people of Israel, against the law that I defined as 'the most anti-Zionist law in the history of Israel,' we won," Bennett continued. "Today, everyone understands that everyone must serve together. One service for

one nation."



**Protesters against Haredi draft evasion stand outside the High Court in Jerusalem on February 26, 2024. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)**

Likud MK Yuli Edelstein, whose party booted him from the helm of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee last year after he demanded legislation that penalized Haredi draft dodgers, said the announcement by Smotrich and Netanyahu was a "huge step on the way to vanquishing the draft evasion law."

"Together, we'll keep striving to widen the IDF's recruitment base until we pass a real, historic enlistment law that will truly answer to the needs of the military, and lighten the burden on people who show up to serve time after time," said Edelstein.

Ultra-Orthodox parties have demanded a law to keep their constituencies out of the military after the High Court in June 2024 ruled that there was no legal basis for the Haredi yeshiva students' decades-long blanket exemption from the draft.



**Haredi men protest against the military draft in Jerusalem, January 11, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)**

The current version of the bill would ostensibly increase military conscription in the Haredi community, but ultimately enshrines continued exemptions for full-time yeshiva students. The bill has come under fire from [IDF brass](#), the [attorney general](#), and a wide array of [other critics](#), who have objected to it on the grounds that it is [full of loopholes](#), preserves inequality in the mandatory draft, and will not increase Haredi enlistment amid what the military says is a manpower shortage.

Since the war in Gaza was sparked by the Hamas-led onslaught of October 7, 2023, the military has repeatedly told lawmakers that it lacks 12,000 troops due to the strain of the conflict and other military challenges. Some 80,000 ultra-Orthodox men aged between 18 and 24 are currently believed to be eligible for military service, but have not enlisted. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-and-smotrich-say-haredi-draft-exemption-bill-to-be-set-aside-to-help-fund-iran-war/>

## Workers in Israel were reeling from financial toll of Hamas conflict even before Iran war

**After more than two years, almost 50% of self-employed workers reported income losses, IDI poll finds, and now face further losses as businesses are hit by latest conflict**

**By Sharon Wrobel**

**10 March 2026, 10:41 pm**



*Shops stand closed inside a shopping mall in Modiin following the closure of businesses amid the war with Iran, March 3, 2026. (Dor Pazuelo/Flash90)*

**Almost one-third of employees in Israel were already battling lower monthly incomes as they struggled to recover from the financial fallout of more than two years of war sparked by the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre, according to a survey by the Israel Democracy Institute released on Monday.**

**Now the country's working population, the backbone of the economy, has been hit with yet another blow amid fresh restrictions as Israel fights**

### **another war with Iran.**

Nationwide restrictions amid the war with Iran which erupted on February 28 left most businesses, schools and educational activities closed. At the end of last week, workplaces [reopened](#) to ease the cost of shutting down the entire economy but the education system remained closed.

This has created a situation where many parents were and are still unable to work because they could not leave their young children home alone as Iran has continued to fire volleys of missiles at Israel, while the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon has been firing rockets at communities across northern Israel.

“The decision to open the economy while the education system is closed has created an intolerable situation in which parents are forced to choose between their livelihood and caring for their children,” said National Labor Federation chairman Yoav Simchi on Monday.

Earlier this week, the Finance Ministry [presented](#) an initial compensation framework for employees with a focus on working parents, who chose or needed to go on unpaid leave for reasons related to the Iran war. According to the emerging framework, for the unpaid leave period, employees would receive unemployment benefits from the government, subject to eased eligibility conditions, which have yet to be published.



*The scene where a ballistic missile fired from Iran hit Tel Aviv overnight, causing heavy damage, March 1, 2026. (Nava Freiberg / Times of Israel)*

However, unemployment payments will not be covered by the entire amount of missed salaries or benefits, as they are limited to 70% of a regular salary.

“Households in Israel cannot pay bills and support a family with 70% of their salary,” said Simchi. “Instead of reaching out to workers who have been on the economic front line for two and a half years, the government is putting them on unemployment insurance and is hitting them with a fine of 30% of their wages in their pockets, on the eve of Passover.”

“The proposed scheme ignores workers who have been affected by a decline in the scope of their work or business and leaves hundreds of thousands of employees, especially self-employed, without any protection, without pay, and without a safety net,” he lamented.

Entering its second week, the war with Iran is expected to further harm the financial situation of salaried employees in general, and those of self-employed and small businesses in particular, as they struggle to recover from the economic damage caused by the war with Hamas in Gaza, according to Daphna Aviram-Nitzan, Director of IDI's Center for Governance and the Economy.

The IDI poll conducted in mid-January this year found that almost a third (27 percent) of employees (salaried and self-employed) in Israel contended with lower salaries or personal income from their business and a reduction in work hours compared with the pre-Hamas war period. The survey by the non-partisan IDI think tank was conducted among a representative sample of 1,193 salaried and self-employed workers.

"The economic damage caused by the events of October 7 remains particularly severe among low-income households," according to the IDI report co-authored by Aviram-Nitzan.



*Illustrative: A classroom at an elementary school in Tel Aviv is empty after Israel closed schools ahead of a nationwide lockdown to halt the spread of the coronavirus, September 17, 2020. (AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)*

About 38% of workers whose salary was below the minimum wage before the war reported a reduction in work hours, compared with just 13% of those who were earning NIS 28,000 (\$9,078), or 2.5 times the average wage.

Among the self-employed, more than half (53%) responded that they have not yet returned to the level of income they earned before the Hamas war more than two years ago. The share of self-employed workers who reported that their personal income from their

business was lower than before the war was found to be more than double that of salaried employees who reported a decline in wages, according to the survey.

Similarly, the average decline (41%) in personal income from business reported among the self-employed was sharper than the average 33% decline in wages suffered by salaried employees.

IDI's Aviram-Nitzan raised concerns about the currently proposed furlough framework in light of the disproportionate financial impact on Israel's self-employed population, which accounts for about 13% of the country's workforce.

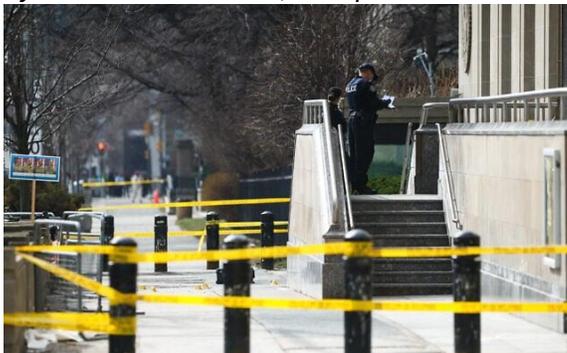
"In contrast to the furlough mechanism that allows salaried employees and their employers to access quick and flexible benefits, no formalized system exists to support the self-employed harmed by the war – only improvised, ad-hoc mechanisms," said Aviram-Nitzan. "The Finance Minister should establish a pre-determined mechanism that will provide the self-employed with a social safety net in times of crisis, as exists in other OECD countries."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/workers-in-israel-were-reeling-from-financial-toll-of-hamas-conflict-even-before-iran-war/>

## Canada stepping up security at US, Israeli diplomatic buildings after shootings

**Police official says it's 'fairly obvious' sites 'deserve a heightened amount of vigilance and security,' after US consulate and three synagogues in Toronto area attacked**

By [AFP](#) 10 March 2026, 8:56 pm



*Toronto Police officers work around the scene of a shooting at the US Consulate in Toronto, Canada, on March 10, 2026. (Cole BURSTON / AFP)*

**Two men fired multiple shots at the US consulate in Toronto early Tuesday in what police described as a "national security incident," prompting beefed-up protection for US and Israeli diplomatic buildings in the city.**

**The individuals approached the consulate in downtown Toronto at around 4:30 a.m., exited a white SUV, and fired several rounds from a handgun at the consulate, Toronto police deputy chief Frank Barredo told reporters.**

There were people inside at the time, but "this building is highly secure, highly fortified, and there were no injuries," Barredo said.

Chief Superintendent Chris Leather, from Canada's federal police, said the shooting was "definitely a national security incident because we had the US consulate... struck by gunfire."

"Whether it's a terrorist [event], that will be subject to the investigation," said Leather, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Leather also told reporters that security protocols were being enhanced at US and Israeli diplomatic buildings in Toronto and in the Canadian capital Ottawa.



*Toronto Police officers work around the scene of a shooting at the US Consulate in Toronto, Canada, on March 10, 2026. (Cole BURSTON / AFP)*

"I think it's fairly obvious based on the incidents in Toronto and elsewhere that these consulates deserve a heightened amount of vigilance and security at this time," Leather said.

There were protests outside the consulate last weekend to denounce the Middle East war triggered by US and Israeli strikes on Iran.

Three Toronto-area synagogues have also [been hit by gunfire](#) in recent days, but no injuries have been reported.

Asked about a possible link between the synagogue shootings

and gunfire at the US consulate, Barredo said it was "too early" to establish a link.

But, he added, "we do not look at [the incidents] in isolation. We look at them collectively."

Leather said the RCMP was working with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation on the consulate shooting, as well as Canada's foreign intelligence agency, CSIS.

The US consulate is located on Toronto's University Avenue, a major north-south road that includes several hospitals and leads toward the provincial legislature. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/canada-stepping-up-security-at-us-israeli-diplomatic-buildings-after-shootings/>

## Report: US asked Israel not to strike Iran oil sites

*Concerns about global oil supply have intensified amid the war, with reports of Iran beginning to place naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's busiest oil shipping route*

ynet|17:27

**The United States has expressed dissatisfaction with Israel's recent strike on Iranian oil facilities and asked that such attacks not be carried out again without approval from Washington, U.S. officials and other sources familiar with the matter told The Wall Street Journal. Axios reported the same development on Tuesday.**

**The request came after Israel targeted oil infrastructure in Iran, according to the reports.**



*(Photo: AFP)*

[Concerns about global oil supply have intensified amid the war.](#) CNN reported Tuesday that Iran has begun placing naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's busiest oil shipping route, through which about one-fifth of global crude oil passes. The report, citing two sources familiar with U.S. intelligence assessments, said the deployment remains limited, with several dozen mines placed in recent days.

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President Donald Trump warned Iran in a post on Truth Social following the report.

"If Iran has put out any mines in the Hormuz Strait — and we have no reports of them doing so — we want them removed immediately," Trump wrote.

"If for any reason mines were placed and they are not removed forthwith, military consequences to Iran will be at a level never seen before," he added.

Trump also said removing any mines that may have been deployed would be "a giant step in the right direction."

The Strait of Hormuz, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the most important maritime routes for global energy supplies. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b1geczczye>

## Mojtaba Khamenei injured but still functioning as Iran's leader, source says

Critics of the regime say the lack of public appearances raises questions about who is actually directing Iran's government. By [AMICHAEL STEINMARCH](#) 10, 2026 21:37



A picture of Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is displayed on a screen in Tehran, Iran, March 9, 2026 (photo credit: MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)

**A source familiar with the matter told The Jerusalem Post that the assessments are that although Mojtaba Khamenei was injured during the war he remains capable of carrying out his duties and managing state affairs as Iran's new supreme leader.**

**Iranian state television reported on Monday that Mojtaba had been wounded, though the broadcast did not provide details about the circumstances of the**

**injury or its severity. The report also did not indicate when the injury occurred or whether it affected his day-to-day responsibilities.**

**Despite earlier assurances from Iranian officials and state media, no photograph or video of the newly installed supreme leader has yet been released, fueling speculation among observers and opposition groups.**



A man holds a placard with an image of Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei with late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, during a gathering to support Mojtaba Khamenei, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran, Iran, March 9, 2026. (credit: MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)

### Mojtaba's lack of appearances raises questions

Critics of the regime say the lack of public appearances raises questions about who is actually directing Iran's government. Figures within the Iranian opposition claim that another senior figure within the regime may be exercising real authority, while Mojtaba serves primarily as a symbolic or representative leader.

Mojtaba is the son of Iran's longtime supreme leader, [Ali Khamenei](#), and has long been considered one of the most influential figures behind the scenes in Iranian politics. Although he held no formal government position

for years, analysts have widely believed that he wielded significant influence within Iran's political and security establishment <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-889520>

## Boeing signs \$289 million Israel contract for 5,000 smart bombs, source says

The new contract is not related to the ongoing US-Israeli air strikes on Iran, with deliveries not scheduled to start for 36 months, Bloomberg News reported earlier.

By [REUTERS](#) MARCH 11, 2026 02:23



A United States Air Force (USAF) Boeing C-17A Globemaster comes in to land behind a USAF B-1B bomber parked beside the runway at RAF Fairford airbase, in Fairford, Britain, March 8, 2026.(photo credit: TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS)

**Boeing has signed a new \$289 million contract with Israel to deliver as many as 5,000 new air-launched smart bombs, a source told Reuters on Tuesday.**

**The new contract is not related to the ongoing US-Israeli air strikes on Iran, with deliveries not scheduled to start for 36 months, Bloomberg News reported earlier, citing a person familiar with the**

**matter.**

**Boeing declined to comment when contacted by Reuters.**

**The company's Small Diameter Bomb is a guided munition that can be launched by Israeli jets at targets more than 40 miles (64 kilometers) away.**

Last year, Boeing was awarded an \$8.6 billion contract by the Pentagon to produce and deliver [F-15 jets](#) to Israel as part of a foreign military sale between the governments.

*Boeing's F-15 jet. (credit: BOEING)*

**US largest arms supplier to Israel**

The US has long been by far the largest arms supplier to its closest Middle East ally.

Reuters reported last week that US President [Donald Trump's](#) administration has bypassed US Congress using an emergency authority to expedite the sale of more than 20,000 bombs to Israel worth around \$650 million. A State Department official had said on Saturday that Israel will purchase an extra \$298 million worth of critical munitions via direct commercial sales.

Earlier this year, the US State Department approved more than \$6.5 billion in three separate contracts for potential military sales to Israel, which include



Boeing's Apache helicopters. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-889539>

## EU bosses split over US-Israeli war against Iran

**European Council head Antonio Costa has rebuked European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for celebrating the conflict**

10 Mar, 2026 17:18



*FILE PHOTO. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa. © Nicolas Economou/NurPhoto via Getty Images*

**European Council President Antonio Costa has issued a rebuke to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen over her support for the war against Iran, stating on Tuesday that “freedom and human rights cannot be achieved through bombs.”**

**In an address on Monday, von der Leyen spoke of people “celebrating” the assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei by a suspected US-Israeli strike, arguing that the conflict “can open a path towards a free Iran.”**

Costa insisted that the EU must “*defend the rules-based international order*” and stay committed to diplomacy and international law.

Von der Leyen, however, questioned the relevance of the rules-based order, saying: “*Europe can no longer be a custodian for... a world that has gone and will not return.*”

The two speeches, delivered within 24 hours of each other during the EU Ambassadors Conference in Brussels, have exposed a rift within the EU leadership.

Von der Leyen has also claimed that the EU’s “*well-intentioned attempts at consensus*” could be a “*hindrance*” to the bloc’s credibility. Yet for the European Council, consensus is explicitly written into the treaties as the default decision-making rule, especially in foreign policy matters.

Brussels and some EU member states have struggled to reach a consensus in areas such as defense spending, aid to Ukraine, and sanctions on Russia.

The most vocal opposition has come from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who recently vetoed a €90 billion EU loan to Ukraine.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has framed himself as the opponent of “*rearmament*” and has criticized “*squandering money on wars.*”

Sanchez has also emerged as Europe’s most outspoken critic of the US-led strikes on Iran. US President Donald Trump criticized Spain last week and threatened to cut off trade with the country.

[READ MORE: Hungary urges EU to lift Russian oil ban](#)

According to El Mundo, von der Leyen has privately complained that she faces two problems in the European Council: “*Viktor Orban and Pedro Sanchez,*” who she believes have rejected her proposals for domestic “*political gain.*”

Russia has condemned the US-Israeli strikes against Iran as a violation of international law.

<https://www.rt.com/news/634398-eu-bosses-split-iran/>

## Republican congressman sparks serious uproar with remark on Muslims after NYC terror, now he fires back

By [WND Staff](#)

March 10, 2026

*The Andy Ogles family.*

In response to Saturday's allegedly ISIS-inspired terrorist attack at the residence of New York City's mayor, a Republican congressman took to X to express his opinion about the religion of the suspects: Islam.



U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles who represents the 5th Congressional District in Tennessee, posted, "Muslims don't belong in American society. Pluralism is a lie."

Muslims don't belong in American society.

Pluralism is a lie.

— Rep. Andy Ogles (@RepOgles) [March 9, 2026](#)

Critics responded with outrage, some demanding Ogles be tossed out of Congress and others demanding the Republican Party denounce his remark.

"Disgusting Islamophobes like you don't belong in Congress," wrote House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Andy Ogles is a malignant clown and pathological liar who has fabricated his whole life story.

Disgusting Islamophobes like you do not belong in Congress or in civilized society.

And that's why House Democrats will defeat you in November. <pic.twitter.com/p4uT0HqREw>

— Hakeem Jeffries (@hakeemjeffries) [March 9, 2026](#)

Rep. Debbie Dingell called the remark "unAmerican," and California Gov. Gavin Newsom repeated a descriptor that appears in several Democrat responses: disgusting.

Disgusting comments. America was founded on the idea of religious freedom. Republicans must denounce this now! <https://t.co/cAp9YOMAs8>

— Governor Newsom Press Office (@GovPressOffice) [March 9, 2026](#)

Lesbian activist Charlotte Clymer got vulgar with her take: "This isn't the time for merely censuring or calling for an investigation. We need to stop f\*\*king around with these people. Andy Ogles needs to be expelled from the U.S. House."

But Ogles doubled down, posting, "To Hakeem Jeffries, Gavin Newsom, and the high-ranking Democrats flooding X to condemn me. A Muslim shot and killed three Americans in Texas. Two Muslims tried to blow up New York City ... again.

"Meanwhile, all DHS counterterrorism programs are unfunded because you shut them down."

To Hakeem Jeffries, Gavin Newsom, and the high-ranking Democrats flooding X to condemn me:

A Muslim shot and killed three Americans in Texas. Two Muslims tried to blow up New York City...again. Meanwhile, all DHS counterterrorism programs are unfunded because you shut them down. [pic.twitter.com/4Kji78jGIE](https://pic.twitter.com/4Kji78jGIE)

— Rep. Andy Ogles (@RepOgles) [March 9, 2026](#)

The Gateway Pundit [reports](#) the congressman noted that his initial post had been about Christians, none of his detractors would respond.

"My comments wouldn't even be a news story if I had said this about Christians," Ogles wrote.

"Please spare me your moral outrage. Cry harder."

He concludes with: "Christ is King."

My comments wouldn't even be a news story if I had said this about Christians.

Please spare me your moral outrage. Cry harder.

Christ is King. <https://t.co/6hYqQf7jIK>

— Rep. Andy Ogles (@RepOgles) [March 9, 2026](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2026/03/republican-congressman-sparks-serious-uproar-remark-muslims-after/>

**The truth hurts but he is telling it.**

Op ed

## UN and EU Condemn the Strike, Not the Regime: Double Standards, Selective Outrage

by [Pierre Rehov](#)

March 10, 2026 at 5:00 am



**The UN faces renewed scrutiny over the consistency of its posture toward authoritarian regimes versus democratic states. The decapitation of Iran's theocratic leadership is not merely a regional episode; it is a stress test for multilateral institutions that have often confused procedural language with strategic seriousness.**

*Pictured: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hosts Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2025, in New York City. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)*

Over the course of 48 hours, the strategic architecture of the Middle East shifted with a speed few could have anticipated. A coordinated Israeli-American [operation](#), prepared in secrecy and executed with surgical exactitude, began by striking key command nodes of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including senior leadership figures, nuclear enrichment infrastructure and long-range missile facilities — and culminated in eliminating Iran's Supreme Guide Ayatollah [Ali Khamenei](#).

The operation was framed as a decisive effort to end a system whose doctrine rests on the permanent destabilization of its [neighbors](#) and nearly half a century of arresting, torturing and murdering tens of thousands of its own citizens. Tehran's response has followed in waves. Ballistic missiles and drones have been launched not only at Israel, but at [regional states](#) hosting American assets — including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — confirming that the confrontation was never confined to a bilateral dispute.

Iranian officials and military commanders had [warned](#) that American bases across the region would be treated as military targets, language that broadened the theater from a localized clash to a confrontation with the Western security presence as such.

Against this backdrop, the reactions from European capitals and from the United Nations were swift — and

revealing. Within hours, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, issued a [statement](#) whose opening line set the tone: "I condemn today's military escalation in the Middle East." He continued with the formulation that has become the UN's signature posture in moments of crisis:

"The use of force by the United States and Israel against Iran, and the subsequent retaliation by Iran across the region, undermine international peace and security." The statement concluded with the point that allows the organization to appear principled while remaining inert: "All Member States must respect their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations."

The language was calibrated, procedural, formulaic. What it avoided was any sustained engagement with the ideological zealotry of the regime, or with the decades of destabilizing conduct that had preceded the strikes. The [UN Security Council](#) convened an emergency session. Russia and China denounced the operation as a violation of Iranian sovereignty. Several European governments echoed concerns about precedent and pressed for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to talk, talk, talk.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom, while condemning Tehran's attacks on neighboring states, quickly moved to place [distance](#) between themselves and the military operation. Their joint [statement](#) used a phrase that expresses Europe's enduring [instinct](#): "We call for a resumption of negotiations and urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution."

French President Emmanuel [Macron](#), speaking publicly and on social media, intoned:

"The current escalation is dangerous for everyone. It must stop... The Iranian regime must understand that it now has no other option but to engage in good-faith negotiations to end its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as well as its actions to destabilize the region."

The British and German positions followed the same patronizing [platitudes](#): insistence that they were not participants in the strike, condemnation of Iran's retaliatory salvos across the Gulf, and an immediate pivot back to negotiation as the legitimizing grammar of European diplomacy. On X, the cadence was consistent across ministers and ministries: defense of "international law," fear of regional spillover, and repeated emphasis on safeguarding civilians and maritime corridors.

These reactions -- never spontaneous improvisations -- reflect a dismissive European posture that has been consistent for years: a preference for managed "containment" over the inconvenience of actually having to [address](#) a problem head-on, and for diplomatic processes over taking decisive outcomes. The European Union's institutional voice crystallized in the official statement by its foreign policy representative, Kaja Kallas, which should be read as an explicit, doctrinal template:

"We call for maximum restraint, protection of civilians and full respect of international law, including the principles of the United Nations Charter, and international humanitarian law."

The statement then shifted to regional blame allocation -- in unusually direct language for [Brussels](#): "Iran's attacks and violation of sovereignty of a number of countries in the region are inexcusable. Iran must refrain from indiscriminate military strikes." The same document then reaffirmed the EU's deepest instinct — to privilege "diplomacy" as the preferred policy:

"The European Union will continue to contribute to all diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and to bring about a lasting solution to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon."

Even as Iranian missiles and drones targeted states hosting NATO forces, European institutions stressed concerns about the disruption of energy markets and the safety of maritime routes — and warned that "the [disruption](#) of critical waterways, like the Strait of Hormuz, must be avoided." The only goal, apparently, was "stability" -- no matter how morally flatulent -- but evidently preferable to actually having to do anything apart from lecturing everyone.

The UN's institutional reflex seems to follow an established pattern. For decades, UN General Assembly resolutions have [disproportionately](#) targeted Israel, often in numbers that dwarf condemnations of far more venomous regimes. The UN Human Rights Council has devoted more agenda items to maligning Israeli policies than to the far worse abuses in authoritarian states. Usually, in crises from Syria's civil war to Iran's crackdowns on dissidents, UN language is diluted through negotiated compromise and voting-bloc discipline. The present crisis unfolded within that same architecture: the immediate emphasis from UN podiums was to advocate containing escalation and restoring "international peace and security," even when the subject at hand was the need to dismantle a regime that defined itself through perpetual confrontation with the West.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's [record](#) is neither ambiguous nor marginal. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, its leadership has articulated a venomous ideological hostility toward Western liberalism and democracy by

portraying them as decadent and spiritually corrosive — not merely as competitors, but as enemies of the revolutionary project. Under [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#), this worldview hardened into a state doctrine: "exporting the revolution," sacralizing "resistance," and normalizing proxy warfare.

Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, militias in Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen have not been peripheral instruments but pillars of a regional strategy designed to encircle Israel, bleed American influence, and fracture sovereign states through permanent low-intensity conflict.

At home, repressing women, persecuting minorities, and crushing dissent are not episodic excesses; they are mechanisms of regime survival. Abroad, terrorism has been used as a tool of coercion -- too often with the affected nations permitting success. Iran's [nuclear weapons program](#) advanced under the cover of perpetual negotiations, while its ballistic missile development and production proceeded in parallel. The regime's hostility was embedded in doctrine.

Yet European statements rarely invoke Iran's record with any moral [clarity](#). Instead, they emphasize fears of precedent — the risk that regime change through force might normalize unilateral intervention. The concern is not trivial, but it becomes analytically incomplete when divorced from context. For decades, Iran has eroded the very norms now cited in its defense: proxies have crossed borders as policy; ballistic missiles have threatened multiple countries; nuclear ambitions challenge the non-proliferation order; hostage diplomacy and extraterritorial intimidation became routine. The insistence on procedural etiquette in the moment of crisis reveals Europe's long investment in managing, rather than resolving, the threat from Iran.

Economic interdependence is not incidental. Several European states have maintained [commercial ties with Iran](#) even under sanctions regimes. Unworkable strategies for energy diversification intensified Europe's anxiety about Gulf stability.

Domestic political considerations — including the management of migration flows and relations with Arab states — have further complicated open endorsement of decisive military action. The result is a posture of distance from Washington's and Jerusalem's operation, emphasizing autonomy while avoiding direct confrontation — and returning, almost automatically, to the language of negotiation as the moral alibi of strategic caution.

At the UN, the broader geopolitical alignment was equally telling. Russia condemned the strikes in the most categorical terms, aligning rhetorically with Iran. China issued familiar calls for sovereignty and restraint, seeking to preserve a posture of order while benefiting from being off the West's radar for a bit. Within this constellation, European representatives positioned themselves as guardians of multilateralism. The cumulative effect is a chorus of caution directed more forcefully at the actors who are dismantling Iran's regime -- Israel and the US -- rather than at the regime's long record of destabilization — a pattern that has become so normalized that it is often mistaken for moral sophistication.

These moral gymnastics are not unprecedented. During the Cold War, debates at the UN reflected blocs more than principles. Authoritarian regimes [benefited](#) from solidarities rooted in ideology, transactional alliances, or sheer voting arithmetic. The contemporary landscape differs in form but not entirely in substance. Coalitions within the UN General Assembly, including states with limited or no democratic credentials, shape the tone and content of resolutions. Within that environment, Israel has long been a focal target of attack, a convenient proxy through which regimes and blocs rehearse moral posturing while deflecting attention from the abuses they inflict at home.

The deeper analytical question concerns the concept of "stability." European [diplomacy](#) has often equated stability with the absence of open war, even if that equilibrium rests on coercion, intimidation, and the slow metastasis of threat. The Israeli-American operation in Iran has shattered that equilibrium. For those invested in negotiated containment, the US-Israeli response appears destabilizing. For others, it represents the removal of a huge source of instability — the elimination of a regime whose worldview treats conflict not as a failure of policy but as the essence of policy. The divergence reflects differing premises about how order should be maintained and what price is acceptable for maintaining it.

European governments are probably now recalibrating policies shaped by decades of appeasing Iran. The UN faces renewed scrutiny over the consistency of its posture toward authoritarian regimes versus democratic states. The decapitation of Iran's theocratic leadership is not merely a regional episode; it is a stress test for multilateral institutions that have often confused procedural language with strategic seriousness.

Whether Europe and the UN will reinterpret this moment as a correction of what needs to be done to a destabilizing presence, or whether they persist in framing malignancy primarily as a procedural violation, remains

uncertain. What is already visible is that the reflex of "caution" — so immediate, so uniform, so instinctive — has exposed the enduring tension between legal niceties and the urgent need to act.

*Pierre Rehov, who holds a law degree from Paris-Assas, is a French reporter, novelist and documentary filmmaker. He is the author of six novels, including "Beyond Red Lines", "The Third Testament" and "Red Eden", translated from French. His latest essay on the aftermath of the October 7 massacre "7 octobre - La riposte" became a bestseller in France. As a filmmaker, he has produced and directed 17 documentaries, many photographed at high risk in Middle Eastern war zones, and focusing on terrorism, media bias, and the persecution of Christians. His latest documentary, "Pogrom(s)" highlights the context of ancient Jew hatred within Muslim civilization as the main force behind the October 7 massacre.*  
<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22324/un-eu-condemn-strike-not-regime>



BS”D

#### STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount but his cost is stable.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ goes into our programs.

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) for bank information.

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

**Your support will be appreciated.**

Yaffa Smolensky