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**Iranian missiles wound 3 in Eilat, including child; Israel hits hundreds of Iran sites
6 salvos target large swaths of country, with IDF working to improve early warning system; schools to resume in lower-threat areas; army says warplane almost shot down during war**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:45 pm



An impact site in Eilat after an Iranian missile targeted Eilat, March 14, 2026 (Yehuda Ben Itach/Flash90)

Iran fired several missile salvos at Israel on Saturday, with one impact injuring three people in Eilat, and a few other impacts in the country's center causing damage but no injuries, as the Israel Defense Forces continued to pound the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, the Home Front Command eased guidelines to allow schools to resume in areas deemed to be under a lower threat level.

Six volleys, consisting of a small number of missiles each — some carrying cluster bomb warheads — targeted most parts of the Jewish state, including southern, central, and northern Israel, as well as the Jerusalem area and West Bank settlements. Most were intercepted or hit open areas.

But in the afternoon, an impact of a cluster bomb munition in the southernmost city of Eilat moderately hurt a 12-year-old boy and lightly hurt two other people, all of whom were injured by shrapnel and taken to the city's Yoseftal Medical Center.

The hospital said six other people were treated for acute anxiety.



An impact site in Eilat after an Iranian missile targeted Eilat, March 14, 2026. (Israel Police)

Another cluster bomb warhead spread bombs across central Israel around the same time, causing damage but no injuries at a number of locations, including in the cities

of Lod and Ness Ziona.

People inspect the damage at the site of an Iranian missile impact in Lod, March 14, 2026. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

Schools to resume in lower-risk areas

The IDF's Home Front Command said Saturday evening that it was easing wartime restrictions in parts of the country deemed to be under less of a threat from Iran's ballistic missiles and Hezbollah's rocket attacks, allowing schools to reopen there.

Following a fresh assessment, it said that starting on Monday at 6 a.m., the activity scale in the Beit Shean Valley, Jordan Valley, West Bank, Dead Sea area, West Lachish, Gaza border communities, Western Negev, Southern Negev and Arava would be adjusted from "limited activity" to "partial activity."

This means that educational institutions will be able to operate in those areas, provided there is an



adequate shelter that can be reached in time. Gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 50 people outdoors will also be permitted, under the same conditions.

The Home Front Command said the threat of Iran's and Hezbollah's attacks on those areas was significantly lower than in other areas of the country, which has also led to fewer sirens. However, military officials stressed that this did not mean there would not be any attacks or sirens in those areas.

In the rest of the country, the activity scale was to remain at "limited activity," with restrictions remaining in place, prohibiting educational activities. Under those guidelines, gatherings of 50 people are permitted, provided a shelter can be reached in time, and workplaces can operate under the same conditions.

"In light of the security situation, the vast majority of the education system will operate through remote learning only," Education Minister Yoav Kisch said in a statement. "This is a targeted and phased reopening — responsible and controlled — tailored to the differences between local authorities and the threat map."



Security and rescue forces inspect the damage at the site of an Iranian missile impact in Ness Ziona, March 14, 2026. (Roy Alima/Flash90)

Meanwhile, the Home Front Command also said it was working on making its missile warning system more accurate.

The early warning to Israelis' phones is issued shortly after the IDF detects a missile launch from Iran, though it is initially hard to predict exactly where it will land. Therefore, the preliminary phone alert usually applies to a wide area. Sirens then generally sound in a more limited area: By that point, the missile's trajectory is clearer.

Following work over the past two weeks amid the war, the Home Front Command said it was now set to issue the early warnings in smaller areas, meaning that fewer civilians would receive an early warning but ultimately no sirens.

The Home Front Command was aiming to reduce the number of civilians who face this issue by 30%-50%.

Israel hits hundreds of Iran sites as war enters 'decisive stretch'

The IDF kept up its heavy airstrikes throughout Iran, saying Saturday evening that it had hit over 200 targets in the country's west and center over the past day.

The targets included dozens of ballistic missile launchers, including some that were armed and primed for attacks on Israel, according to the IDF.

Other targets included air defense systems, missile launch sites, and sites used to store weapons, the military said, explaining that it has focused many of its strikes on Iranian missile launchers, "to reduce as much as possible the scope of fire toward Israeli territory."

Defense Minister Israel Katz said the war against Iran was "escalating" and entering a "decisive stretch that will continue as long as necessary."

"Only the Iranian people can put an end to this through a determined struggle, until the fall of the terror regime and the deliverance of Iran," he added during an assessment Saturday morning with IDF Chief of Staff Lt.

Gen. Eyal Zamir and the military's top brass.



Iranian policemen stand guard next to banners showing portraits of slain supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the Enqelab-e-Eslami, or Islamic Revolution, square in downtown Tehran, Iran, March 14, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

The military also elaborated Saturday on some of its strikes the previous day, saying that two senior Iranian intelligence officers had been killed in a Tehran facility belonging to the intelligence directorate of the Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters, also known as Iran's military emergency command.

According to the military, the strike killed Abdollah Jalali-Nasab and Amir Shariat, two top officers in Khatam-al Anbiya's intelligence directorate. The IDF said that the pair had been appointed as acting heads of the unit after Salah Asadi, chief of intelligence in the emergency headquarters, was killed in the opening strikes of the war on February 28.

"The two were senior intelligence commanders and were key figures in the Iranian intelligence community. In addition, the two were close to the top leadership of the Iranian terror regime," the IDF added.

The army also said it carried out a wave of strikes in the Tehran area on Friday night that hit “dozens of Iranian terror regime infrastructure sites.”

Among the targets was Iran’s primary space research center, which the military said “contained strategic laboratories used for research and development of military satellites for various purposes, including surveillance, targeting, and directing fire toward targets across the Middle East.”

Additionally, the IDF said it struck several sites used by Iran to produce air defense systems, including a “central factory.” It said the strike “significantly degrades the Iranian terror regime’s ability to rehabilitate its aerial defense array.”

IAF warplane nearly shot down over Iran

The IDF also said Saturday evening that an Israeli Air Force fighter jet had almost been shot down over Iran amid the war, without saying when exactly.

According to the IDF, an attempt was made to shoot down the jet, and it was “close to being hit.”

The attempted interception of the plane “failed due to the alertness and professionalism of the pilot,” the military said, adding that the sortie “was completed successfully.”

The incident was investigated by the IAF, and lessons were learned, the military added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-missiles-wound-3-in-eilat-including-child-israel-hits-hundreds-of-iran-sites/>

Trump and Iran both reject international efforts to launch ceasefire talks

US presses assault after strike on Iran’s Kharg Island, while Tehran refuses to discuss truce until attacks end

By [Reuters](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:14 pm



US President Donald Trump boards Air Force One as he departs Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, March 13, 2026. (Saul Loeb / AFP)

US President Donald Trump’s administration has rebuffed efforts by Middle Eastern allies to start diplomatic negotiations aimed at ending the Iran war that started two weeks ago with a massive US-Israeli air assault, according to three sources familiar with the efforts.

Iran, for its part, has rejected talk of a ceasefire until US and Israeli strikes end, two senior Iranian sources told Reuters, adding that several countries had been trying to mediate an end to the conflict, which began on February 28. Tehran has carried out retaliatory strikes in response to the US-Israeli strikes that killed top Iranian officials, including the country’s supreme leader.

The lack of interest from Washington and Tehran suggests both sides are digging in for an extended conflict, even as the widening war inflicts civilian casualties and Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz sends oil prices soaring.

US strikes on Iran’s Kharg Island, the country’s main oil export hub, on Friday night underscored Trump’s determination to press ahead with his military assault. Iran’s new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has vowed to keep the Strait of Hormuz shut and threatened to step up attacks on neighboring countries.

The Israel Defense Forces has assessed that between 4,000 and 5,000 Iranian soldiers and commanders have been killed since the start of the war.

The war has created the biggest-ever oil supply disruption as maritime traffic has halted in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world’s oil is transported.

Attempts to open lines of communication

Oman, which mediated talks before the war, has tried multiple times to open a line of communication, but the White House has made clear it is not interested, according to two sources, who were granted anonymity in order to speak freely about diplomatic matters.

A senior White House official confirmed Trump has rebuffed those efforts to start talks and is focused on pressing ahead with the war to further weaken Tehran’s military capabilities.



Iranians attend the funerals of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commanders, army commanders and others killed in the early days of the US and Israeli strikes on Iran, at Enghelab Square in Tehran on March 11, 2026. (Atta KENARE / AFP)

“He’s not interested in that right now, and we’re going to continue with the mission unabated. Maybe there’s a day, but not right now,” the official said.

During the first week of the war, Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that Iran’s leadership and military were so battered by US-Israeli strikes that they wanted to talk, but that it was “Too Late!” Trump has a history of shifting foreign policy stances without warning, making it hard to rule out that he might test the waters for

restarting diplomacy.

“President Trump said new potential leadership in Iran has indicated they want to talk and eventually will talk. For now, Operation Epic Fury continues unabated,” a second senior White House official said when asked to comment.

The Iranian sources said Tehran has rejected efforts by several countries to negotiate a ceasefire until the US and Israel end their airstrikes and meet Iran’s demands, which include a permanent end to US and Israeli attacks and compensation as part of a ceasefire.

Egypt, which was involved in mediation before the war, has also tried to reopen communications, according to three security and diplomatic sources. While the efforts do not appear to have made progress, they have secured some military restraint from neighboring countries hit by Iran, according to one of the sources.

Egypt’s foreign ministry, the government of Oman and the Iranian government did not respond to requests for comment.

Positions harden on all sides

The war’s impact on global oil markets has significantly increased the cost for the United States.

Some US officials and advisers to Trump urge a quick end to the war, warning that surging gasoline prices could exact a high political price from the president’s Republican Party, with US midterm elections looming.



US President Donald Trump speaks at a Women’s History Month event in the East Room at the White House, on March 12, 2026, in Washington. (AP Photo/Julia Demaree Nikhinson)

Others are pressing Trump to maintain the offensive against the Islamic Republic to destroy its missile program and prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon, according to Reuters reporting.

Trump’s rejection of diplomatic efforts could indicate that, for now, the administration has no plans for a quick end to the war.

Indeed, both the United States and Iran appear even less willing to engage than during the opening days of the war, when senior US officials reached out to Oman to discuss de-escalating, according to several sources.

One source said Iran’s top security official, Ali Larijani, and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had also sought to use Oman as a conduit for ceasefire discussions that would have involved US Vice President JD Vance.

But those discussions have not materialized.

Instead, Iran’s position has hardened, said a third senior Iranian source.

“Whatever was communicated previously through the diplomatic channels is irrelevant now,” said the source.

“The Guards strongly believe that if they lose control over the Strait of Hormuz, Iran will lose the war,” the source added, referring to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an elite paramilitary force that controls large parts of the economy.

“Therefore, the Guards will not accept any ceasefire, ceasefire talks, or diplomatic efforts, and Iran’s political leaders will not engage in such talks despite attempts by several countries.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-and-iran-both-reject-international-efforts-to-launch-ceasefire-talks/>

Ukraine’s alleged help to Israel in countering Iranian drones draws threat from Tehran

Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security and foreign policy committee in the Iranian parliament, wrote on X that Ukraine had effectively entered the war by supporting Israel with drones

Yair Navot|16:39

A senior Iranian lawmaker warned Saturday that Ukraine could become a “legitimate target” for Iran, accusing Kyiv of assisting Israel during the ongoing conflict.

Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security and foreign policy committee in the Iranian parliament, wrote on X that Ukraine had effectively entered the war by supporting Israel with drones.



(Photo: Ivan SAMOILOV / AFP)

“By providing support to the Israeli regime with drones, the collapsing Ukraine has in fact become involved in the war,” Azizi wrote. “According to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, this has turned all of its territory into a legitimate target for Iran.”

Azizi did not specify how Ukraine was allegedly assisting Israel.

Earlier this week, however, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine had sent drone interception systems along with a team of experts and operators to Jordan to help defend U.S. bases in the kingdom.

Ynet also reported Saturday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sought to hold talks with Zelenskyy about potential Israel-Ukraine cooperation in intercepting Iranian drones.

Ukraine has gained extensive experience countering attack drones during more than four years of war with Russia, particularly drones developed or upgraded based on Iran’s Shahed-136 design.

Ukrainian air defense forces have developed a range of tactics to intercept most of the drones used by Russia, making Ukraine one of the most experienced countries in the world in dealing with such threats.

Since the war with Iran began about two weeks ago, Zelenskyy has repeatedly emphasized Ukraine’s willingness to assist countries facing Iranian drone attacks, citing the experience Ukrainian forces have gained in defending against Russian strikes.

About 10 days ago, Zelenskyy said the United States had specifically asked Ukraine for assistance in defending against drones, including sending specialists to countries in the Middle East and the Gulf to help counter the threat.

Zelenskyy reiterated that message Friday during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, saying Ukraine is prepared to share its experience from the war with Russia in countering attack drones.



(Photo: John MACDOUGALL / AFP)

He added that more than a dozen countries have approached Ukraine seeking assistance in dealing with Iranian-made drones.

“It is important for all of us that through joint efforts we stabilize the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region and prevent this war from spreading further,” Zelenskyy said.

He said Ukraine has developed significant expertise in countering Shahed drones, which Iran has supplied to Russia and trained Russian forces to operate.

“Ukraine now has the world’s greatest expertise in fighting Shaheds,” Zelenskyy said, referring to the Iranian-designed attack drones.

He added that effective defense requires not only interceptors but also trained personnel and integrated systems that combine radar and broader air defense capabilities.

“Ukraine is ready to share this experience for the security of those partners who support us,” Zelenskyy said, adding that Europe should also adopt similar defenses as the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East demonstrate the nature of modern warfare and the importance of cooperation among allies.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjwvn8x5bl>

US will be 'bombing hell out of shoreline' to get Strait of Hormuz open, Trump says
According to US President Donald Trump's announcement, the strikes were focused on military targets on the island and avoided the oil installations.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MARCH 14, 2026 01:35 Updated: MARCH 14, 2026 17:23



US President Donald Trump talks to the media upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, US, March 11, 2026. (photo credit: REUTERS/KEVIN LAMARQUE)

The US will open the Strait of Hormuz "one way or another" and would "be bombing the hell out of shoreline," President Donald Trump said on Saturday.

Trump further threatened that the US would be "continually shooting Iranian boats and ships out of water."

The President also noted that many countries would send warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, but did not specify which countries would do so.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he hoped that China, France, Japan, South Korea, Britain and others would send ships to the area.

In a statement to Iranian state media, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the Strait of Hormuz is closed only for "tankers and ships of enemies and their allies."



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meets with his Egyptian counterpart and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Cairo on September 9, 2025. (credit: AHMED HASAN/AFP via Getty Images)

Araghchi further vowed that Iran would attack the facilities of US companies in the region if its energy infrastructure was targeted, noting that the regime would act with caution to avoid targeting populated areas.

US strikes Kharg Island in Iran, Trump says

The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) struck Kharg Island, one of Iran's main oil terminals, [US President Donald Trump](#) announced on Friday.

"Moments ago, at my direction, the United States Central Command executed one of the most powerful bombing raids in the History of the Middle East, and totally obliterated every MILITARY target in Iran's crown jewel, Kharg Island," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post.

According to Trump's announcement, the strikes were focused on military targets on the island and avoided the oil installations, which provide a naval exit for almost 90% of the Iranian oil exports. However, Trump threatened to attack the installations if Iran interferes with shipping operations in the Strait of Hormuz.

"Our weapons are the most powerful and sophisticated that the world has ever known, but, for reasons of decency, I have chosen not to wipe out the oil Infrastructure on the island," Trump said. "Should Iran, or anyone else, do anything to interfere with the Free and Safe Passage of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision."

CENTCOM later confirmed Trump's remarks, saying "US forces successfully struck more than 90 Iranian military targets" in a large-scale precision strike on Kharg Island.

The strike destroyed naval mine storage facilities, missile storage bunkers, and multiple other military sites, the US military said in a post on X.

In a subsequent post, Trump also said: "[Iran](#) had plans of taking over the entire Middle East, and completely obliterating Israel. Just like Iran itself, those plans are now dead."

Trump says Israel-US goals might not be fully aligned

Trump's comments came minutes after he talked to reporters at Joint Base Andrews while leaving Air Force 1. There, he said that the US and Israel's goals for the war in Iran might "be a little different."

He also said that the US Navy will begin escorting ships through the Strait of Hormuz "very soon" and that the [Iranian Navy](#) "is gone."

"The situation in Iran is going very well. A lot of big hits today... We're in very good control," he said and added, "Their navy is gone. Their air force is gone. Most of their military is gone... Just about everything is gone, and you'll see that."

CENTCOM shares images of B-2 bombers in operation

The latest release from CENTCOM focused on operations conducted by [B-2 stealth bombers](#), the US's most modern bomber, but did not mention the targeting of Kharg Island.

"B-2 stealth bombers take off to conduct a mission during Operation Epic Fury, delivering long-range fire to not only eliminate the threat from the Iranian regime today, but also eliminate their ability to rebuild in the future," CENTCOM's statement said.

Reuters contributed to this report. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-889881>

'Like Gaza': Israel said planning 'massive' south Lebanon ground invasion to uproot Hezbollah After terror group's huge rocket assault on Wednesday night, officials say Israel wants to seize entire area south of Litani River; Ron Dermer said tasked with talks with Beirut

By [Tol Staff](#), [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies Today](#), 10:28 am



Israeli tanks and troops seen near the Lebanese border amid the ongoing war with Iran and Hezbollah, March 14, 2026. Ayal Margolin/Flash90

Israel is planning to launch a "massive" ground invasion of southern Lebanon in order to push the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group away from the border and destroy its weapons stores and positions, US and Israeli officials told the Axios news site on Saturday.

The report said the Israeli plan aims to seize the entire area south of the Litani River that bisects Lebanon from east to west and that the operation became inevitable after the terror

group launched a large-scale rocket attack on northern Israel on Wednesday.

It also comes after Hezbollah's leader said his group was ready for a long confrontation with Israel.

"We are going to do what we did in Gaza," a senior Israeli official told [Axios](#), referring to the destruction of buildings and tunnels that Hezbollah uses to store its weapons and launch strikes.

"The goal is to take over territory, push Hezbollah's forces north and away from the border, and dismantle its military positions and weapons depots in the villages," the official said.

The official said that Israel had largely been trying to contain the situation in Lebanon and focus on Iran, but that had changed after the terror group launched more than 200 rockets at northern Israel on Wednesday in an attack that was coordinated with Iran, which fired missiles at the same time.



The scene where a missile fired at Israel caused damage in Hazor HaGlilit, northern Israel, March 14, 2026. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)

"Before this attack we were ready for a ceasefire in Lebanon, but after it there is no way back from a massive operation," a senior Israeli official told the site.

On Friday, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, following a fresh assessment, ordered a "broad reinforcement" of troops in the Northern Command, "as part of strengthening readiness for various offensive and defensive scenarios," the military said in a statement.

The army said the deployment will include forces from the standing army, including the 98th Division, with two brigade-level combat teams and combat engineering battalions.

Reservist forces from the 252nd Division will be mobilized and deployed to the Gaza Strip to swap out the standing army units who are being sent to the Northern Command. In the Central Command, the IDF will also be extending the duty time of several reserve battalions.

The IDF has also urged thousands of civilians in southern Lebanon to evacuate to safer areas.

This would not be Israel's first attempt to push Hezbollah away from the border. During the conflict that followed the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre, Israeli forces destroyed large parts of several villages in border areas where Hezbollah had built tunnels and fortifications ahead of a plan to attack Israel in a move similar to the Hamas invasion.



Destroyed buildings are seen in the Lebanese village of Yaroun from a vantage point in the Upper Galilee in northern Israel on the border with Lebanon on March 13, 2026. (Photo by Odd ANDERSEN / AFP) /

Under the ceasefire that ended that conflict, Lebanon had agreed to disarm Hezbollah south of the Litani, but Israel said the work was not adequate.

Previously, following the 1982 Israel-Lebanon war, Israel retained a wide strip of southern Lebanon as a security zone, before withdrawing to the international border in 2000 after years of bitter guerrilla warfare with Hezbollah and other armed groups.

Hezbollah leader [Naim Qassem](#) said on Friday his terror group was ready for a long confrontation with Israel. "We have prepared ourselves for a long confrontation, and God willing, they (Israelis) will be surprised on the battlefield," Qassem said in his second televised address since the latest war began.

Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war last week when the Tehran-backed Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes.

Spare the airport

According to Axios, the US supports Israel's plan, but has asked Jerusalem to spare Lebanon's national infrastructure and international airport.

"The Israelis have to do what they have to do to stop the Hezbollah shelling," a US official said, adding that while Israel has agreed not to hit the Beirut airport, they have stopped short of giving a blanket commitment not to hit infrastructure.



A photograph shows a banner bearing portraits of the slain Hezbollah leaders Hassan Nasrallah (L) and Hashem Safieddine, at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted the Burj al-Barajneh neighbourhood in Beirut's southern suburbs, on March 14, 2026. (Photo by AFP)

An Israeli official said Israel would consult with the US on a case-by-case basis. "We feel we have full US backing for this operation," the Israeli official told Axios.

Israel on Friday destroyed a bridge over the Litani River between the towns of Zrariah and Tayr Falsay.

In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces said the bridge was being used by Hezbollah as a "key crossing" to move from northern to southern Lebanon, "prepare for

combat against IDF troops, and operate against the civilians of the State of Israel, while endangering Lebanese civilians and causing extensive destruction in populated areas."

The attack was the first on Lebanese public infrastructure to be acknowledged by Israel since the start of the Middle East war, with the IDF saying it was necessary to strike the bridge to prevent a "threat to Israeli civilians, and the continued harm to Lebanese civilians."



The military said Hezbollah also positioned rocket launchers near the bridge and carried out rocket attacks on Israel from the area recently.

Israeli military vehicles and tanks are seen in Upper Galilee, northern Israel, amidst the ongoing war between Israel-US and Iran and Hezbollah, March 14, 2026. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)

Defense Minister Israel Katz also threatened additional strikes against infrastructure.

“This is only the beginning, and the Lebanese government and the Lebanese state will pay an increasing price through damage to Lebanese national infrastructure that is used by Hezbollah terrorists,” Defense Minister Israel Katz said during an assessment with IDF chief Zamir and the military’s top brass.



“The Lebanese government, which misled and did not fulfill its commitment to disarm Hezbollah, will pay increasing prices through damage to infrastructure and the loss of territory, until the central commitment of disarming Hezbollah is fulfilled,” he added.

People inspect the damage at the scene where a missile fired at Israel caused damage in Hazor HaGlilit, northern Israel, March 14, 2026. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)

Earlier this week, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun offered to negotiate directly with Israel, but on Friday he said he had not received a response.

However, Axios said that in addition to the large-scale ground operation, Israel was also preparing for the possibility of talks, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tapping his confidant and former strategic affairs minister Ron Dermer to handle Lebanese-related diplomatic efforts.

The report said that US President Donald Trump has tasked US envoy for Africa Massad Boulos with trying to facilitate talks. Boulos is also Tiffany Trump’s father-in-law.

The report quoted sources as saying the Trump administration wants a broader deal to formally end the state of war between Israel and Lebanon.

Strikes continue

Hezbollah continued rocket and drone fire at Israel on Saturday morning, with sirens sounding in the northern border community of Margaliot.

The IDF on Saturday also published footage showing what it says were Hezbollah operatives loading rockets into a weapons depot in southern Lebanon and the subsequent strike on the site.

According to the military, troops identified the operatives Friday as they brought rockets into a storage facility in the area of the village of Majadel. Within minutes, the air force carried out a strike on the depot, killing the operatives.

IDF footage published March 14, 2026, shows Hezbollah operatives loading rockets into a weapons depot in southern Lebanon and a subsequent strike on the site (Israel Defense Forces)

An Israeli strike hit an apartment building in a northern Beirut suburb that had also been targeted a day earlier, Lebanese media reported on Saturday.

An AFP correspondent saw rescue workers at the scene and damage, including a hole, in a building in the Nabaa-Burj Hammoud area, outside Iran-backed Hezbollah’s strongholds in the capital’s southern suburbs. The same building had been struck on Friday without causing casualties.



A photograph shows damaged buildings at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted the Haret Hreik neighborhood of Beirut’s southern suburbs, on March 14, 2026. (Photo by AFP)

Meanwhile, Lebanese health authorities said Saturday that Israeli strike in southern Lebanon killed 12 doctors, paramedics and nurses working at a healthcare centre in the town of Burj Qalawiya, following another strike on the town of Sawaneh that left two paramedics affiliated with Hezbollah and its ally Amal dead.

There was no direct comment from the IDF in the incident, but on Saturday the military accused Hezbollah of making “extensive military use” of ambulances and medical facilities in Lebanon.

“We warn that the military use of medical facilities and ambulances must stop immediately, and we stress that if this approach does not stop, Israel will act in accordance with international law against any military activity carried out by the Hezbollah terror organization using those facilities and ambulances,” says army spokesman Col. Avichay Adraee.

The military deployed troops deeper into southern Lebanon last week, saying it aims to “establish a forward

defense that will create an additional security layer for the residents of the north.”

The IDF has said that Hezbollah is launching most of its rocket and drone attacks on Israel from deeper within southern Lebanon, and not from close to the border. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-planning-massive-ground-invasion-of-southern-lebanon-to-uproot-hezbollah/>

Report: French ceasefire proposal includes Lebanese recognition of Israel

A French proposal to end the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah includes Lebanon formally recognizing Israel and redeploying the Lebanese army south of the Litani River, according to media reports citing diplomatic sources.

Qatar's Al-Araby channel reported that the United States and Israel are considering the French mediation plan aimed at ending the war in Lebanon.

IDF forces in southern Lebanon (Video: IDF) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

The proposal comes as the United States and France explore the possibility of arranging direct talks between Israel and the Lebanese government to reach a ceasefire and agreements under which the Lebanese state would take responsibility for disarming Hezbollah.

However, senior Lebanese sources told Lebanon's Al-Jadeed channel that reports suggesting negotiations would begin soon are inaccurate. The sources said the timing, location and composition of a Lebanese delegation have not yet been finalized, adding that Lebanon would not agree to negotiations without the participation of a Shiite representative.

The diplomatic push comes as Israel continues expanding military activity in Lebanon despite attempts to halt the escalation and prevent a possible ground operation in southern Lebanon.

The effort on the U.S. side is being led by Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President Donald Trump. Israel has not yet formally accepted the invitation to negotiations, though the direction appears positive.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked former minister Ron Dermer to coordinate the Lebanon portfolio, and if talks take place he is expected to represent Israel. Dermer has recently participated in several meetings of the security cabinet.

“It is hard to believe a broad ground operation in Lebanon can be prevented, and it appears IDF soldiers will ultimately have to carry out the difficult work of disarming Hezbollah,” a source familiar with the matter said.

“At the same time, there is a chance for a dramatic shift with the Lebanese government,” the source said. “The Lebanese government also wants Hezbollah disarmed. We are entering a long and complex campaign against Hezbollah.”

IDF strikes in Lebanon

The source added that diplomatic negotiations alone are unlikely to stop the fighting, but discussions are taking place about the possibility of a new chapter with Lebanon after the Iran front, similar to recent developments with Syria.

If direct talks are held, they are unlikely to take place in Naqoura, where previous negotiations between Israel and Lebanon were conducted, due to the ongoing exchange of fire. Instead, the discussions would likely be held in a third country.

[French President Emmanuel Macron](#) has proposed hosting the talks in Paris and said he had spoken with Lebanon's president Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and parliament speaker Nabih Berri about the effort.

Macron called for urgent steps to prevent Lebanon from descending into chaos and urged Hezbollah to stop what he described as a dangerous escalation.

He also called on Israel to refrain from a large-scale attack and halt massive strikes, noting that hundreds of thousands of people have fled the bombardment.

Macron added that the Lebanese government has expressed readiness to hold direct talks with Israel and said all components of the Lebanese state should be represented in any negotiations aimed at reaching a ceasefire and a lasting solution. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/712zpqiqi#autoplay>

Hezbollah's resilience exposes the limits of Israel's military strategy

Analysis: recent successes created the illusion Hezbollah could be quickly crippled, but dismantling the group would require either a prolonged war in Lebanon or a major political shift inside the country

A senior former security official involved in several successes during the war says the renewed fighting with Hezbollah highlights deeper strategic misunderstandings within the defense establishment and government.

“They’re selling illusions to the public,” the former official said. “The current defense establishment and the government did not fully understand the basis for the successes in the war in the south and in the north. That misunderstanding is now the basis for mistakes being made regarding Hezbollah.”

IDF strikes in Lebanon (Video: IDF) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

The central illusion, he argued, is the belief that another decisive blow could quickly cripple the group.

“The idea that there can be a ‘one big hit and it’s over,’ another strike they won’t recover from — that’s not how strategy works,” he said. “You have to prepare an entire system of actions tied to a clear objective and activate it at the time you choose, not the enemy.”

The renewed confrontation with Hezbollah has stirred public bitterness. For months, the public was told Hezbollah had been heavily beaten and nearly finished, and that its leader, Naim Qassem, remained in place only because he was ineffective and weak. Hezbollah, according to that narrative, was only a shadow of the organization that once threatened massive rocket fire against Israel.

Political leaders have also shown frustration, sending signals through media briefings that the IDF was surprised by Hezbollah’s response and had expected only limited involvement.

Within the military, such claims are viewed as an attempt to shift blame onto the General Staff. Senior defense officials say assessments about Hezbollah’s recovery — and the stronger-than-expected performance of its command structure, including Qassem — had been conveyed to political leaders and the public over the past year.

Rumors circulated earlier in the week about an impending large-scale attack, yet the civilian home front did not receive early warning that Hezbollah was preparing to strike. Notification to local authorities about the expected intensity of the attack also came late, something the military acknowledges as a mistake.

Military correspondent Yossi Yehoshua reported that the political leadership had twice rejected plans proposed by the IDF for a broad surprise strike against Hezbollah.

All of this, the former official said, reflects early stages of a blame game.

Hezbollah was indeed struck hard during the “Northern Arrows” campaign, which came after the impressive pager operation, and faced an unprecedented domestic crisis in Lebanon. The group today is not the same force that once threatened immediate barrages of thousands of rockets into Israel, nor is it the same Radwan force.

But Hezbollah has received substantial funding from Iran and has begun an extensive rebuilding process. Once the United States and Israel launched war against Iran, the organization — created and financed by Tehran — was compelled to intervene.

For Iran and its regional allies, the conflict has taken on existential dimensions. If the killing of Iran’s supreme leader were to pass without response, Iran would risk losing deterrence entirely.

Israel expected some form of Hezbollah retaliation following the killing of Ali Khamenei. There was also strong rhetoric from Israeli officials suggesting the moment had arrived to “finish” the group — though what exactly that meant was never clearly defined.



(Photo: Al Manar TV/Reuters)

Hezbollah, meanwhile, has demonstrated stronger capabilities than expected, even compared with assessments within the military.

The main arena of the war remains Iran. Resources and operational focus of the IDF are concentrated there, while Lebanon has become a secondary theater as long as the conflict with Iran continues.

Military leaders had wanted to address Hezbollah before turning to Iran. There was a desire to allow the Lebanese arena to tackle the Hezbollah challenge, and an understanding that Israeli military involvement might play into the Shia’s terror group’s hands. But there was broad recognition within the defense establishment that internal political developments in Lebanon were crucial to any

lasting change.

That leaves Israel facing the risk of being drawn into reactive actions driven by political pressure to show that something is being done while the military is focused elsewhere.

According to the former official, Hezbollah could be dealt a decisive blow in two ways.

The first — not currently on the table — would involve a major war in Lebanon, including a deep ground operation aimed at clearing the country of Hezbollah infrastructure.

“That would mean one or two years of war in Lebanon, possibly all the way to Beirut,” the former official said. “It would not be easy and it would not be short. Anyone talking about entering Lebanon and finishing Hezbollah should understand exactly what that entails.”

The second possibility lies in Lebanese politics. Hezbollah’s decision to join the war has triggered an unprecedented crisis with Lebanese society and political leadership.

Lebanon’s president and prime minister have shown determination to move against Hezbollah as an armed organization. Until recently, political momentum against Hezbollah had appeared frozen, but dragging Lebanon into war has dramatically shifted the internal debate.

Hezbollah understands this pressure but operates under strong expectations from Tehran.

The war in 2024 created deterrence for Israel, but even deterrence has limits when Israel deals with Iran itself.

Ultimately, neither path guarantees success: a prolonged war in Lebanon or a dramatic political shift within Lebanon itself.

Those hoping for another dramatic operation like the earlier pager attack misunderstand how previous successes were achieved, the former official said. Operations such as the pager attack or the Israeli Air Force strike that destroyed most launch capabilities were only components of a broader strategy built on intelligence gathering, long preparation, surprise and a clear focus on the northern front as the main theater.

Today, he argues, public confusion has led to a return of inflated threats.

Strikes against Lebanon’s national infrastructure or civilian-serving institutions are unlikely to produce meaningful results. Such measures were once intended to increase internal pressure on Hezbollah, but that pressure is already higher than ever.

Another idea being discussed is holding territory up to the Litani River as a new security zone after evacuating civilians from the area.

“That would be difficult and could actually help Hezbollah recover rather than weaken it,” said another official involved in the discussions. “It would mean returning to Lebanon with all that entails — and the question becomes for what purpose, at what cost and for how long.”

The stated answer is to push Hezbollah away from communities in northern Israel, which are again facing unprecedented attacks. Residents have yet to receive clear answers about the future and have even been forced to request exemptions from nationwide budget cuts while the war continues.

Strategy, the former official said, is not just a plan but a system of priorities designed to achieve a larger objective.

That objective, he said, is clear: dismantling Hezbollah as an armed organization.



(Photo: Adri Salido/Getty Images)

Whether Lebanon itself can accomplish that remains uncertain. Ultimately, only Lebanese society can push such a change effectively — unless Israel chooses the alternative of occupying all of Lebanon, an option some close to the prime minister support but which appears highly unlikely.

Developments in Lebanon are historically significant, from efforts to outlaw Hezbollah as an armed organization to the possibility of negotiations with Israel. Yet Lebanon’s government and president are widely viewed as weak.

“Let them show us they are capable,” one Israeli official said.

“We are waiting for that.”

The key question, the official said, is how to help them, because the opportunity may not return.

As long as the IDF remains focused on fighting Iran, Lebanon and the northern border will not receive the

attention they require.

That reality, he said, has not been fully communicated to the public.

More Israeli ground incursions into Lebanon may still occur, possibly to reduce the anti-tank missile threat near border communities and defensive positions Israel has built inside Lebanese territory. Additional airstrikes deep inside Lebanon are also likely, along with continued efforts to target Hezbollah's leadership.

But alongside military pressure, any lasting change will require careful political maneuvering behind the scenes.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government, the former official argued, have become enamored with the intoxicating power of successful military operations, forgetting that such operations are only one tool meant to support a broader political strategy. <https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/sjue2em511x#autoplay>

Iron Beam's limits exposed as Hezbollah drones breach northern Israel's skies

Technological progress and procurement in the area of miniature unmanned aircraft by Hezbollah and Iran is faster than laser development

By ASSAF GILEAD/GLOBES/TNSMARCH 12, 2026 09:51 Updated: MARCH 12, 2026 12:14



DELIVERED TO the IDF late last year, the Iron Beam system marks a historic milestone – the world's first operational laser defense platform capable of neutralizing rockets, drones, and mortars at a fraction of the cost of traditional interceptors. (photo credit: The Defense Ministry/Handout via REUTERS)

The Iron Beam high-energy laser air defense system was meant to provide a robust solution to the threats from UAVs and drones in Israel's northern skies. In practice, since Hezbollah joined the current round of fighting, dozens of unmanned aircraft have penetrated the border.

Just in Kiryat Shmona and Kibbutz Dafna, there have been eighteen UAV warnings, and some of these aircraft flew around undisturbed until they were shot down by conventional means, fired at from helicopters or even with assault rifles.

This state of affairs raises questions, especially given that the laser system carried out successful interceptions in the Northern Arrows operation in 2024. It completed the trials stage in 2025, was declared operational at the end of the year, and initial units have been delivered to the IDF.

As far as is known, the IDF has only a small number of [laser systems](#) at present. Negligible use has been made of them in the current campaign, and the IDF spokesperson has refused to comment on their contribution to the fighting in the north.

The lack of clarity on the matter has spawned fake news: at the beginning of the operation, a forged video clip was distributed on social networks showing a laser beam knocking out missile salvos one after another.



Israeli rescue forces seen at the site of a Hezbollah drone attack in the Druze town of Majdal Shams, July 27, 2024. (credit: MICHAEL GILADI/FLASH90)

The reality is that the system is not designed to deal with ballistic missiles and, contrary to what appears in the video, the laser beam is not visible from a distance.

Interception costing a few shekels?

The disappointing facts contrast with the high expectations of the system and the billions of shekels invested in it. In late 2024, the Ministry of Defense, Rafael (the designer of the system) and Elbit (its developer) signed a NIS 2 billion deal for the expansion of production and procurement of the system.

The original plan was to integrate the laser with the Iron Dome system, such that preference would be given to the laser to deal with any low-altitude threat, but plans are one thing, and performance is another.

Rafael chairperson [Yuval Steinitz](#) promised in the past that the laser system would make it possible to carry out interceptions at a cost of just a few shekels, and that it would even provide an answer to rockets and missiles.

At present, however, the system is limited to dealing with UAVs and drones only, and even in that respect it has underperformed. Moreover, although the cost of "pulling the trigger" is indeed low, each laser interception system costs tens of millions of shekels.

Creating an effective protective layer along the northern border requires further investment of billions of shekels, a budget that has not yet been allocated.

Between euphoria and reality

Brig. General (res.) Ran Kochav, a former commander of the Air and Missile Defense Forces who is now a research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London, told "Globes": "There is no doubt that we are talking about a most impressive technological breakthrough. The laser could be the next promising technology as a complementary system in the lowest layer, a real additional technological factor like another Iron Dome launcher, but all the same, the expectations that have been built up are exaggerated. The expectation has been created that it will solve the air defense problem, and that really is not the case."

Kochav says that the system is still in its infancy. "It fires at very short ranges, is sensitive to climatic conditions such as fog, dust storms, and clouds, and is relevant only against [drones and UAVs](#), certainly not against rockets or threats from Iran. Rafael chairman Steinitz talks about interceptions costing the price of a tin of cola, perhaps, but in order for it to be that effective, it's necessary to invest billions of shekels and to deploy it along all the borders. The euphoria has to adjust to reality."

Limitations of laser beams

Kochav says that the current war, on the evidence of what is happening in the Gulf states and also in Israel, demonstrates that technological progress and procurement in the area of miniature unmanned aircraft in Hezbollah and Iran is faster than laser development, just as in the Russia-Ukraine war.

"The UAVs highlight a gap in our defense system, and in contrast to active defense, interception by means of Arrow missiles or Iron Dome, where the success rate is estimated at 90%, at present there is no ultimate defensive solution to these miniature aircraft, most of which are currently shot down by kinetic means, interceptors and shells, and certainly not by lasers."

The Iron Beam system is based on a 100-kilowatt laser beam that is focused on the target for several seconds until it causes structural failure and brings it down. Because of the fairly low power, the system is effective against light and slow objects, but cannot deal with fast-moving ballistic missiles such as those of Iran or Hezbollah's "Fateh" missile.

Dr. Yehoshua Kalisky, a senior researcher at INSS (the Institute for National Security Studies), explains that "in the US they developed chemical laser systems that produced one megawatt, ten times the power of the Iron Beam laser, but the project was halted because of budgetary considerations.

Today, the Americans are trying to upgrade the solid-state technology, similar to ours, to an output of 500 kilowatts. It may be that under strategic agreements between Israel and the US, we will be able to benefit from it."

The main problem with this technology, however, is physical. "The laser is only 30% efficient. 70% of the energy becomes heat. The more the output is increased, the larger and more complex are the means required of dispersing heat, and that becomes a real engineering problem," Kalisky says.

"The many engineering challenges prevent the laser system becoming at this stage a mass interception system like Iron Dome. It doesn't work well in difficult weather conditions and struggles to deal with swarms of UAVs because of the fact that it works in series and can only deal with one target at any given moment. At present, to shoot down a whole swarm, you need many systems working in coordination."

Dr. Kalisky believes that solutions to these limitations will be achieved with extensive research and development. "To overcome atmospheric distortions, simulations can be carried out that correct the way the beam works in real time. The serial fire problem can be solved by increasing the beam's output: as power increases, the amount of time required for dealing with each target will shorten considerably, and the system will be able to jump quickly between targets and neutralize swarms efficiently."

The IDF stated in response: "The Iron Beam system is at the stage of being accepted into the Air Force. At the same time, other systems are being developed and produced, in accordance with the work plan that has been expedited in view of the security challenges. We are unable to provide details on the way systems are operated."

<https://www.jpost.com/defense-and-tech/article-889677>

Protesters chant for Hamas and Hezbollah at Al Quds Day rally in New York City

Anti-Zionist activists accuse Israel supporters of eating babies and raping children, shout 'death to America,' wave terrorist flags

By [Luke Tress](#)

Today, 3:53 am



Anti-Zionist protesters at an Al Quds day rally in Times Square, New York City, March 13, 2026. (Luke Tress/Times of Israel)

NEW YORK — Anti-Zionist protesters chanted for terrorist groups, accused Israel’s supporters of eating babies and raping children, and chanted for death to Israel and the US at a protest for Al Quds Day in New York City on Friday.

Al Quds Day is an annual, anti-Israel event held on the last Friday of Ramadan, established by Iran in 1979. The protest this year took place during heightened tensions due to the US-Israel war with Iran.

The protest on Friday drew several hundred participants and was backed by leftist and anti-Zionist activist groups, including Pal-Awda, the Bronx Anti-War Coalition and the Workers World Party.

“This Al Quds Day holds a special significance as the United States and its puppet Zionist regime wage full-out war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We proclaim our support for the Islamic Republic,” a speaker said, introducing the event.

“Iran is the central pillar in the struggle against US imperialism and Zionism,” he said. “A war against the Islamic Republic of Iran is a war against anti-imperialism, against anti-occupation, against anti-freedom.”

“We remind the enemies that martyrdom is our highest honor and the targeting of the leader only strengthens the resolve,” he said. “We renew our pledge to the path of the martyrs.”

The protesters held signs that said, “Victory to Palestinian and Iranian resistance,” “Free America from Israel,” and with pictures of the ayatollahs.

Several signs said, “Israel weaker than a spider’s web,” referring to threats made by Hezbollah terror chief Hassan Nasrallah before Israel killed him. A child on the stage held up a photo of Iran’s late leader Ali Khamenei.

Around a dozen pro-Israel counter-protesters, Jews and allies, gathered across the street, chanting, “USA,” and shouting, “brainwashed,” and “terrorists.”

One of the speakers directed the anti-Zionist crowd to turn toward the pro-Israel group and led them in chants of, “Stop eating babies, stop raping children.”

The allegation that Jews kill and consume children is based in the medieval, antisemitic blood libel that has ignited mass violence against Jews for centuries. Other anti-Zionist activists have also [employed the libel against Israel](#) and its supporters in recent months.

The protesters also repeatedly referred to Jeffrey Epstein, with one protest leader referring to the US as the “Epstein-worshiping pedophile regime.”

Other chants included, “Death to America, death to Israel” in Farsi, “We support Hamas here,” and, “Khaybar, khaybar,” a reference to an ancient Muslim victory over a Jewish tribe that is often [seen as a threat](#) of antisemitic violence. Several demonstrators shouted, “Khaybar, khayar, O Jews,” in Arabic.

One woman waved a Hezbollah flag and another carried a flag for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group.

Another speaker described “Zionists” as “parasites that have taken over the host’s body.”

“They infiltrated the Oval Office, they infiltrated our legislature, they infiltrated our courts. They’re even trying to take ownership of our media. One single Zionist billionaire is taking ownership of TikTok,” she said.

A speaker from the Bronx Anti-War Coalition heralded the “decolonization of West Asia” in the Iran war.

“This strategic earthquake was triggered by the heroic Al Aqsa Flood,” he said, a reference to the October 7, 2023, Hamas invasion of Israel.

“We honor the military prowess, the unbreakable spirit of our beloved commanders, martyr Yahya Sinwar, the lion of Gaza, Hassan Nasrallah, and all of the valiant commanders of the IRGC,” he said, to cheers and chants of “allahu akbar.” Sinwar was the late leader of the Hamas terrorist group and the IRGC is Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“We stand on the brink of a decisive victory. Let us honor our martyrs, let us carry their rifle,” he said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/protesters-chant-for-hamas-and-hezbollah-at-al-quds-day-rally-in-new-york-city/>

Progress! Sen. Mike Lee says 'we've turned kind of a corner' on SAVE Act

By [Bob Unruh](#) March 14, 2026



Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah (Screenshot)

Senate Majority Leader John Thune already has committed to bringing the SAVE America Act, which would provide vast new levels of security and integrity to American elections, to the Senate floor soon. It's already passed the House.

And now Sen. Mike Lee, the primary sponsor, has confirmed a "corner" has been turned in the plan.

"Look, I am guardedly optimistic. We've turned kind of a corner over the last few days," he said.

"There's been some uncertainty about exactly what procedure we will and will not be using. In the end, we've been working closely with Leader Thune and his staff, and they've been great to work with.

"What we're coming up with is something that I think is best described as a hybrid version of the talking filibuster. But look, let's not get mired down in nomenclature. What matters far more than what we call it is what we do with it.

"We're going to bring it to the floor. We're going to debate it for an extended period of time before filing cloture. And in my view—at least, I don't want to speak for anyone else—this bill needs to remain on the senate floor before we file cloture for as long as it takes to get it done," he said.

"Now, the fact that Leader Thune and his office have been willing to work with us on this, and that they appear open to a variation of that, is a good thing. So let's keep up the momentum. Let's encourage them to continue to do this. Let's put the bill on the floor. Let's make those who want to filibuster speak, and keep it on there as long as possible."

Important Status Update Regarding the SAVE America Act

We're making serious progress [@LeaderJohnThune](#) and his team have been working closely with us pic.twitter.com/2Nzt1HaZLO

— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) [March 13, 2026](#)

The [Gateway Pundit](#) explained, "That means Democrats will be FORCED to take the floor and defend their radical anti-voter-ID agenda, possibly for HOURS or even DAYS, against a bill that 85% of the American people support."

Next week, I will bring the SAVE America Act to the floor. Senate Democrats will be forced to defend their outrageous positions on these issues and explain to the American people why common sense and the Democrat Party have parted ways. pic.twitter.com/WrC6igztjN

— Leader John Thune (@LeaderJohnThune) [March 12, 2026](#)

Mike Lee CONFIRMS that JD Vance could take John Thune's place in the Senate & ram through the Save America Act:

"JD Vance can come to the Senate ANY TIME he wants and immediately assume the position in the presiding officer chair."

Let's make it happen. pic.twitter.com/TCBD4EXwWg

— The Conservative Alternative (@OldeWorldOrder) [March 13, 2026](#)

PASS THE SAVE AMERICA ACT <https://t.co/Y1IVbkPRhm>

— Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) [March 8, 2026](#)

[Earlier](#), Thune, a South Dakota Republican, confirmed plans to address the plan.

"I can't guarantee an outcome on this legislation. But I can guarantee that we are going to put Democrats on the record," Thune told lawmakers. "That they will be forced to defend their outrageous positions on these issues – and explain to the American people why common sense and the Democratic Party have parted ways."

The plan would have Americans display a valid ID to vote in federal elections, require proof of citizenship when registering to vote, and require in-person voter registration for federal elections.

It also has states take all noncitizens off their voter rolls.

"Only American citizens should be able to vote in our elections. Period. This shouldn't be controversial," explained Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Mo. "If Democrats want to block something that the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with – be my guest."

Democrats have alleged it will make it harder for minorities to vote, or the disabled. They even claim married women might not be able to register because they often change their last names when they are married, meaning their name would not batch their birth certificate.



Thune says such rhetoric is "unforgivable" and "insulting."

"Either Democrats are just reflexively opposing this proposal because it originated from Republicans, or Democrats believe that there are in fact people out there voting illegally and that it's benefiting Democrats, and they want to keep it going," Thune told lawmakers Thursday

[‘Forced to defend their outrageous positions’: Thune to bring SAVE Act to Senate floor](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2026/03/progress-sen-mike-lee-says-weve->

turned-kind/

OP ED

'Trump Derangement Syndrome': The Danger of Hatred Clouding Perception

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#)

March 14, 2026 at 5:00 am



Iran's leaders have for decades chanted "Death to America" ("The Great Satan") and "Death to Israel" ("The Little Satan"), slogans that are not merely rhetorical flourishes but actual central elements of the regime's ideological identity. Yet, when Trump confronts this very regime, the focus shifts away from the Iranian regime's actions and instead centers entirely on condemning Trump himself. The atrocities committed by the regime fade into the background.

Pictured: Iran's then Supreme Guide Ali Khamenei gives a speech on November 1, 2023, televised on Iran's Channel 1. (Image source: MEMRI)

If one steps back from the daily noise of partisan bickering and looks at the broader picture in the United States today, some media outlets and political figures appear so consumed by hostility toward the current president that they seem incapable of evaluating events rationally.

Their reaction to almost anything he does appears automatic and reflexive. This situation, often described as "Trump Derangement Syndrome," has reached such an extreme level that at times these voices appear to be [siding](#) — whether intentionally or not — with America's enemies such as the Chinese Communist Party, or the Iranian regime, which, since its [inception](#) in 1979, has openly been at [war](#) with the United States and for decades has been [described](#) by American officials across both political parties as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism 39 years in a row.

The result is a political discourse that seems disconnected from what is right or wrong, but simply whether something was done by President Donald J. Trump.

This disagreement has gone far beyond normal political discord. In any healthy democracy, political leaders and policies can and should be debated and criticized. What we are witnessing now in some corners of the political and media landscape, however, appears to have crossed over into something closer to emotional obsession than rational debate. It is as if the guiding principle has become: if Trump does something, it must automatically be wrong. The logic and context behind the action become irrelevant. Instead of asking whether confronting a hostile regime might serve American interests or international security, the reaction becomes instant opposition, regardless of the circumstances or the stakes involved.

The Iranian regime, for instance, has for decades openly defined itself through hostility toward the United States and its allies. Its leaders have repeatedly chanted "Death to America" ("The Great Satan") and "Death to Israel" ("The Little Satan"), slogans that are not merely rhetorical flourishes but actual central elements of the regime's ideological identity. Iranian leaders, starting with the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, have openly called for the obliteration of Israel and have supported armed groups across the Middle East that target both Israelis and Americans.

Since 1984, the US government — under both Republican and Democrat administrations — has officially [designated](#) Iran as a State Sponsor of Terrorism for its support of terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the Houthis; its involvement in attacks across the region and attempted attacks abroad, including involvement in the 9/11 attacks and at least two attempted [assassinations](#) on Trump, as well as targeting senior US [officials](#) for assassination in his first term.

Iran's regime has [killed](#) countless Americans, and continues to pursue policies designed to weaken American influence in the Middle East. It is a regime that has repeatedly demonstrated hostility toward the United States and its allies.

Yet when Trump took a hard stance against Tehran, instead of focusing on the nature of the Iranian regime itself, some critics appeared to focus exclusively on the identity of the president who was confronting it. The issue became less about Iran and more about Trump. His actions, rather than being evaluated on their merits, were filtered through the lens of political hostility. Whatever he does must be greeted with skepticism or condemned. The hypocrisy is difficult to overlook. Many of the same political movements and advocacy groups that strongly emphasize women's rights and human rights have historically [ignored](#) Iran's state abuse of [women](#) and [dissidents](#). For decades, Iranian authorities have imposed severe restrictions on women's freedoms, violently suppressed protests, and imprisoned journalists, activists, and political opponents. Tens of thousands of Iranians have been arrested, tortured, or murdered for challenging the regime's authority or for demanding basic freedoms. Yet, when Trump confronts this very regime, the focus shifts away from the Iranian regime's actions and instead centers entirely on condemning Trump himself. The atrocities committed by the regime fade into the background. Imagine how different the reaction might be under a different administration. Media coverage might emphasize Iran's human rights abuses, its repression of women, and its support for terrorist groups. Analysts would speak about defending human rights, protecting allies, and standing up to authoritarian governments. The policy would likely be framed as a necessary response to the brutal regime developing nuclear weapons and being a dangerous global threat.

When opposition to a political figure becomes absolute, every action that person takes must be opposed. The debate ceases to be about facts or moral principles and instead becomes a contest of political identity. Critics who once spoke passionately about human rights abuses in Iran now appear unwilling to acknowledge them when doing so might align them with a policy pursued by Trump. Advocacy for women's rights, democracy, and freedom becomes selectively applied, filtered through the lens of domestic political rivalry. In the end, the greatest danger of this mindset is not simply unfair criticism of a president. The deeper problem is that it weakens the ability of society to confront serious threats. When political hatred becomes so intense that it overrides basic judgment, it becomes difficult to distinguish between legitimate criticism and reflexive opposition. Perception of reality itself is broken.

At a moment when the world faces overwhelming security challenges – such as from [China](#) – currently developing new [deadly pathogens](#) for biowarfare and [autonomous robots programmed to kill](#) -- and authoritarian regimes that continue to threaten both their own populations and what they regard as their enemies -- denial and blindness carry serious risks.

Democracies function best when their debates are grounded in facts and reason rather than emotional reflexes. If political discourse becomes so polarized that people can no longer recognize the nature of regimes that repress their own citizens and openly threaten the United States and the Free World, the problem is far larger than any single president. It becomes a crisis that can only be addressed when people step outside their partisan bubbles and confront reality as it truly is.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh, is a political scientist, Harvard-educated analyst, and board member of Harvard International Review. He has [authored](#) several books on the US foreign policy. He can be reached at dr.rafizadeh@post.harvard.edu <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22338/trump-derangement-syndrome-iran>



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 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