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IDF planning 3 more weeks of operations to systematically degrade Iran's defense industry

Officials say military operating ahead of schedule, but still has thousands more targets to hit; IDF claims to see declining morale among Iranian soldiers

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 5:59 pm



An Israeli Air Force F-16I takes off for strikes in Iran, in an image published by the military on March 12, 2026. (Israel Defense Forces)

The Israel Defense Forces' campaign in the joint war with the United States against Iran is proceeding according to plan, and at a faster pace than initially expected, military officials said on Sunday, with strikes on Iran's defense industries expected to further ramp up alongside ongoing efforts to reduce missile fire on Israel.

Despite being apparently ahead of schedule, the military has said it is preparing for at least three more weeks of operations in Iran, as it still has thousands more targets to hit, both in Tehran and in other parts of the country.

"We have thousands of targets ahead," IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin told CNN on Sunday. "We are ready, in coordination with our US allies, with plans through at least the Jewish holiday of Passover, about three weeks from now. And we have deeper plans for even three weeks beyond that."

Following Israel's decapitation strikes that opened the war on February 28, killing Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei and more than 40 top Iranian officials, and subsequent strikes on ballistic missile launchers and air defense systems, the IDF is now focusing its efforts on destroying Iran's military industry, according to the officials.

The officials said that the current campaign against Iran is different from the 12-day war in June 2025, and far more extensive.

During the previous war, Israel sought to counter the "existential threat" of Iran imminently developing a nuclear weapon, as well as its ramped-up production of ballistic missiles. The current war has given the IDF an opportunity to not only remove the "existential Iranian threat" to Israel, but also Iran's "strategic threat" on the Jewish state "for the foreseeable future," the officials said.



Plumes of smoke rise as strikes hit the city during the US-Israeli military campaign in Tehran, Iran, on March 5, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

Therefore, the IDF is seeking to systematically degrade Iran's entire defense industry, including its ballistic missile capabilities, in addition to its nuclear program.

The defense industry of Iran is extensive, with numerous military bodies and private companies manufacturing weapon systems — or components — including ballistic missiles, air defenses, naval weapons, cyber capabilities, and even spy satellites.

Israel has targeted Iran's military industry in the past, including in October 2024 when the Israeli Air Force bombed planetary mixers used to make solid fuel used in long-range ballistic missiles. During the 12-day war in June 2025, Israel again struck various sites used by Iran to build ballistic missiles, air defense systems, and other weapons.

Now, the officials said, the IDF would not spare a single facility used by Iran to develop weapons, along the

entire production chain. So far, during the ongoing war, Israel has hit over 1,700 assets of Iran's military industry, and it has many hundreds more on its list.



Boys stand on a launcher of an Iranian domestically-built missile during an annual rally marking 1979 Islamic Revolution at the Azadi (Freedom) sq. in Tehran, Iran, on February 11, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

This includes the larger firms that are part of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps — which manufacture Iran's ballistic missiles and other weapons — as well as smaller companies that develop various components.

The officials said that these strikes have caused significant damage to Iran's ballistic missile production industry, and as a result, it currently does not have the ability to manufacture any new missiles.

Israel has also been targeting Iran's nuclear program, striking numerous targets related to the development of atomic weapons, including research and development sites and companies building various components.

Meanwhile, the officials said, strikes in Iran continue to also focus on "centers of power," including headquarters and command centers of the regime's protest repression forces — the internal security forces and Basij paramilitary force.

The IDF has estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 Iranian soldiers have been killed in Israeli strikes,

along with tens of thousands more wounded, many of them members of the internal security forces and Basij.



Members of Iranian paramilitary forces (Basij) attend an anti-Israeli rally in Tehran, January 10, 2025. (Photo by AFP)

The military has also identified declining morale among Iranian soldiers, refusal to serve in some cases, and desertion, according to the officials.

This phenomenon has mainly taken place in Iran's ballistic missile array, according to the officials, who said that strikes against manned command centers and replacement headquarters have led to a drastic reduction in missile fire toward Israel in recent days.

The IAF has also continued to "hunt down" Iran's missile launchers, reporting that it destroyed dozens in recent days, including some armed for attacks on Israel.

So far, the military has claimed to have destroyed or disabled around 70 percent of Iran's estimated 500 ballistic missile launchers, though it is believed to be relatively simple for Iran to build new launchers, as it did following the June 2025 war.



Black smoke rises following an airstrike in Tehran, Iran, on March 13, 2026. (Elaheh ASIABI / FARS NEWS AGENCY / AFP)

Strikes also continue against Iran's air defense systems. Within 24 hours of the war, the IDF reported achieving aerial superiority in parts of Iran, which enabled large-scale strikes in Tehran and other areas with a lower risk to Israeli fighter jet pilots.

The military officials said that the IAF now has air supremacy in most of Iran's airspace, after taking out more than 100 air defense systems and around 120 detection systems.

The officials also said the IDF would continue to operate against the Quds Force, the extraterritorial arm of the IRGC, both in

Iran and in Lebanon.

Israel launched its campaign against Iran, alongside the US, to degrade the Iranian regime's military capabilities, distance threats posed by Iran, and "create the conditions" for the Iranian people to topple the regime, the military and other Israeli leaders have said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-planning-3-more-weeks-of-operations-to-systematically-degrade-irans-defense-industry/>

Iran fires 7 more missile salvos at Israel, attacks Gulf; IDF launches 'extensive' strikes

At least eight injured in missile attacks as cluster munitions cause widespread damage; IRGC threatens to 'pursue and kill' Netanyahu; US orders evacuations from Oman, Iraq

By [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Diana Bletter](#),
[Agencies](#) and [Tel Staff](#) Today, 2:00 pm



Israeli security and rescue forces inspect the damage at the scene where a missile fired from Iran toward Israel caused damage in Bnei Brak, central Israel, March 15, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Iran fired seven missile salvos at Israel overnight Saturday and into Sunday wounding at least eight people and kept up its attacks on countries across the Gulf as the Israel Defense Forces launched a new wave of "extensive" strikes targeting Iranian regime infrastructure in the country's west.

An Iranian missile rained cluster bomb munitions across a swath of central Israel wounding four people.

In Bnei Brak, a man in his 60s was moderately hurt after a suspected cluster bomb munition struck an apartment building. In Ramat Gan, a man in his 70s was lightly hurt by a blast following another impact, and two women, aged 46 and 18, were lightly hurt in Petah Tikvah, the Magen David Adom rescue service said.

Two people were lightly injured in an earlier attack shortly before noon. The pair, two men in their 50s, were hurt in central Israel, MDA said, after a missile carrying a cluster bomb warhead spread submunitions across the area. Damage and fires were caused at multiple sites in central Israel by the cluster munitions, according to rescue services.

And in the early morning, two people were lightly injured in Holon, in central Israel. MDA said a man in his 80s received medical treatment at the scene for light injuries caused by glass shards, and a woman, also in her 80s, was being treated for symptoms of smoke inhalation.

Sunday's Iranian missile launches targeted central and southern Israel sending millions repeatedly running for shelters. Northern Israel, meanwhile, has been under continual rocket and drone fire from the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, which joined the fighting on March 2 to support its sponsor, Iran.

Footage published by the police showed one of the cluster bomb munitions from an Iranian ballistic missile striking central Israel.

Iran has launched multiple ballistic missiles at Israel carrying cluster bomb warheads during the ongoing conflict, indiscriminately spreading small bombs in wide areas of the country.

On Sunday morning, the Health Ministry reported that over the past 24 hours, 108 injured people had been taken to hospitals as a result of the conflict with Iran. Of those, two were in moderate condition and 96 were in good condition. Nine people have been treated for anxiety. Some were injured running to shelters and the number includes soldiers.

The war, now in its third week, showed few signs of slowing. US President Donald Trump rebuffed efforts to start negotiations on an end to the fighting and threatened further strikes on a key Iranian hub for exporting oil.



Anti-missile batteries fire interceptors toward incoming ballistic missiles launched from Iran, as seen over Tel Aviv, March 15, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

And after Iran's supreme leader was killed on the first day of US-Israeli strikes on February 28, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps threatened to kill Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"If this child-killing criminal is alive, we will continue to pursue and kill him with full force," said the Guards on their website, Sepah News, on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iran's army said on Sunday it had targeted a police unit and a satellite communications center in Israel

with drone strikes.

In a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency, the army said “it has targeted the security centers and police headquarters of the Zionist terrorist regime, including the regime’s special police unit called ‘Lahav 433’ and the ‘Gilat Defense’ satellite communications center with powerful drone attacks.”

There were no reports of any drone impacts in Israel.

The Israeli Air Force, meanwhile, said it had launched a new wave of “extensive” airstrikes in western Iran.

The military said the strikes targeted Iranian regime infrastructure sites.

A firefighter extinguishes a blaze in a vehicle following a the impact of a cluster munition in an Iranian ballistic missile strike in Israel on March 15, 2026 (Jack GUEZ / AFP) /

Saudi Arabia says 10 Iranian drones destroyed over Riyadh

The fighting continued to envelop the Gulf nations neighboring Iran. Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates reported fresh Iranian missile attacks on Sunday, while Saudi Arabia’s Defense Ministry said its systems intercepted and destroyed 10 drones over the capital, Riyadh, and the kingdom’s eastern region.



Bahrain said that since the beginning of the war, its air defenses have intercepted 125 missiles and 211 drones. The small island nation — home to the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet — has been among the most affected by Iranian strikes, which have hit ports, a hotel, a refinery and a water desalination plant. At least person has been killed in the strikes.

In the wake of the strikes across the region, the US State Department said it ordered non-emergency government employees and the family members of government employees to leave Oman, citing safety risks. And following an overnight missile attack on the US embassy in Baghdad, the embassy said US citizens should leave Iraq immediately.

“US citizens choosing to remain in Iraq are strongly encouraged to reconsider in light of the significant threat posed by Iran-aligned terrorist militia groups,” the embassy said.

Although its missiles have hit civilian areas, Iran’s foreign minister denied on Sunday that Iran has targeted civilian or residential areas in the Middle East. He said Tehran is ready to form a committee with its neighbors to investigate the responsibility for such strikes.



A plume of smoke rises after a reported Iranian strike on fuel tanks in Muharraq, Bahrain, on March 12, 2026. (Fadhel MADHAN / AFP) /

Gulf countries have called upon Iran to cease its attacks on their territories, which have not only sustained strikes on US military bases but also damage to energy facilities and residential areas.

Abbas Araghchi’s Telegram channel quoted him as saying in an interview with the Al-Araby al-Jadeed website that Tehran was in communication with various Gulf capitals and would welcome any initiative that could guarantee a complete end to the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Araghchi also told his French counterpart that countries must refrain from any action that could

escalate the conflict in the Middle East. The comment came after Trump called upon various states, including France, to deploy vessels to help secure shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been blocked by Iran.

Iran arrests 20 for allegedly cooperating with Israel

The war began more than a month after an Iranian government crackdown on mass anti-regime protests killed thousands, with activist groups saying the true toll is in the tens of thousands. Israel and the United States have repeatedly hoped for regime change as a result of the war,

Iran appointed Mojtaba Khamenei, son of the late supreme leader Ali Khamenei, as his successor last week. It has vowed to continue combating anti-government activity in the country.

The country’s Tasnim news agency reported that 20 people were arrested in northwestern Iran for allegedly attempting to cooperate with Israel, citing a statement by the West Azerbaijan province’s prosecutor’s office.

They stand accused of sending location details on Iran’s military and security assets to Israel. Iran frequently arrests people and accuses them of spying without providing evidence.

Israel has launched a new phase of its assault on Iran, targeting security checkpoints based on tip-offs from informants on the ground, a source briefed on Israel’s military strategy told Reuters last week.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-fires-7-more-missile-salvos-at-israel-attacks-gulf-idf-launches-extensive-strikes/>

Iran FM claims Tehran never sought ceasefire or talks with US amid war **Araghchi says Iran’s enriched uranium stockpile lies ‘under the rubble’ after strikes, claims Hormuz open except to US allies, as IDF reports hitting 200 targets in western Iran**

By [Nava Freiberg](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 11:26 pm



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during an interview on CBS on March 15, 2026. (Screenshot/CBS)

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that Tehran had neither requested a ceasefire nor sought negotiations with Washington amid the ongoing war with the United States and Israel, despite US President Donald Trump claiming Tehran appeared ready to agree on terms unsuitable to Washington.

“No, we never asked for a ceasefire, and we have never asked even for negotiation. We are ready to defend ourselves as long as it takes,” Araghchi said in an

interview with CBS’s Face the Nation.

He also rejected the assessment that the conflict represented a “war of survival” for Iran, arguing that his country was “stable and strong enough.”

“We are only defending our people from [this] act of aggression,” he said.

In the same interview, Araghchi said Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium was now buried “under the rubble,” following US and Israeli strikes on the country’s nuclear facilities last June.

Iran’s estimated 440 kilograms of enriched uranium — enriched to up to 60 percent fissile purity, which can relatively easily be raised to the 90% level considered weapons-grade — were believed to be stored deep underground at the Isfahan nuclear site.



Footage released by the IDF on June 21, 2025, shows the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Iran’s Isfahan nuclear facility. (Israel Defense Forces)

“Our nuclear facilities were attacked, and everything is under the rubble,” Araghchi said.

He acknowledged that the material could potentially be retrieved, but said Tehran currently had no plan to do so.

“Of course, you know there is the possibility to retrieve them, but under the supervision of the [International Atomic Energy Agency],” he said. “If one day we come to the conclusion to do that, it would be under the supervision of the agency. But for the time being, we have no program. We have no plan to recover them from under the rubble.”

Washington had demanded that Iran relinquish the stockpile in nuclear talks that were halted by the bombing campaign. Trump [said last week](#) that he would consider sending ground troops in the future to secure the material.



Araghchi suggested that the issue could become part of future negotiations, but said that, for now, Tehran was not prepared to put the matter on the table.
US President Donald Trump waves after arriving on Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida, March 13, 2026. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

“Everything depends on the future,” he said. “If any time in the future we decide to enter into negotiation with US or other interlocutors, you know, we may

decide what to put on the table. For the time being, nothing is on the table.”

Araghchi also said that multiple countries have approached Tehran to negotiate the safe passage of oil and gas vessels through the Strait of Hormuz amid Iran’s efforts to block the strategic passage point.

“We are open to countries who want to talk to us about the safe passage of their vessels,” Araghchi said, though he declined to name which countries had approached Iran to win safe passage for their vessels.

The Financial Times reported that France and Italy had contacted Iran to try to arrange passage for their ships.

“This is up to our military to decide, and they have already decided to let, you know, a group of vessels belongs to different countries to pass in a safe and secure,” he continued, repeating claims by Iranian officials that certain countries were permitted to pass ships through the strait, while adding that some of these countries were, by choice, “not coming themselves because of the insecurity which is there, because of the aggression by the US.”



Liberia-flagged tanker Shenlong Suezmax, carrying crude oil from Saudi Arabia, that arrived clearing the Strait of Hormuz, is seen at the Mumbai Port in Mumbai, India, March 12, 2026. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

In a separate interview with Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Araghchi said the Strait of Hormuz remained open, but only to countries other than “America and its allies.”

Araghchi also justified Iran’s hundreds of strikes on its neighbors in the Persian Gulf region and beyond, claiming that it is only targeting American bases situated in these countries.

“We did not attack any residential or civilian targets,” he said. “There may have been collateral damage in residential areas, which is normal

in any war.”

Iranian drones and missiles have been fired at civilian infrastructure in the UAE and other US allies, including Dubai’s airport, landmark hotels and the financial hub.

Araghchi also boasted about striking Citibank offices in Manama and in Dubai in response to a US strike on an Iranian bank in Tehran that is used to pay Iranian security forces.

He also blamed the US and Israel for strikes on Arab states, claiming that Iran had “recently received information indicating that the United States and Israel are also launching attacks from specific locations toward Arab countries.”

Israeli Air Force F-35I fighter jets head to carry out strikes in Iran, in a photo published by the military on March 15, 2026. (Israel Defense Forces)

His remarks came as the IDF said a wave of strikes in the Hamedan area of western Iran targeted several headquarters belonging to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Basij paramilitary force.

The IDF said it was “expanding” its strikes against Iranian regime infrastructure in western and central Iran, “with the aim of broadly and systematically damaging the regime’s command and control capabilities.”

The Israeli Air Force struck more than 200 targets in western and central Iran over the past day, the military said.

According to the IDF, the targets included command centers manned by Iranian soldiers, as well as air defense systems and weapons storage and production sites. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-fm-claims-tehran-never-sought-ceasefire-or-talks-with-us-amid-war/>

Trump said briefed on US intel showing Ali Khamenei thought his son unfit to lead US president reportedly unmoved by briefing as he believes Mojtaba may be dead already, leaving Iran leaderless again; Kuwaiti outlet claims he was smuggled out of Iran to Russia

By [Nava Freiberg](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 11:04 pm



A schoolgirl holds up a poster of Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei during an anti-US and Israel demonstration in Baghdad, Iraq, on March 12, 2026. (AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP)

US President Donald Trump was **briefed recently on American intelligence showing that Iran's late supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, was wary about his son Mojtaba Khamenei replacing him as ruler in the event of his death, according to a Sunday report.**

Sources familiar with the matter told CBS News that the elder Khamenei's fears stemmed from the perception that Mojtaba, who was recently named as his father's successor, was "not very bright, and was viewed as unqualified to be leader," as well as from an awareness that Mojtaba had "issues in his personal life."

The report came as the newly elected 56-year-old supreme leader has remained conspicuously absent from the public eye in the week since he was elected, fueling rumors of injury or death, or that he has fled Iran.

The only public comments attributed to him since he was elected on March 8 were delivered in the form of a statement read out by a television presenter on Thursday.

The sources cited by CBS were said to include people within the Trump administration, the US intelligence community, and figures close to the president. The outlet said both Trump and Vice President JD Vance had been briefed on the intelligence information.

In a possible reference to the intelligence he was allegedly briefed on, Trump told Fox News in an interview on Friday night that Khamenei was "not somebody that the father even wanted."

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



According to CBS, Trump has told people close to him that he is not putting too much weight on the intelligence briefing, as he already considered Iran to be "essentially leaderless," and believes Mojtaba, like his father, may already be dead.

Other US officials have voiced similar opinions, including Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who on Friday said Khamenei was "wounded and likely disfigured."

On Friday, [the US announced](#) that it was offering a reward of up to \$10 million for information about Khamenei, as well as several other senior Iranian military and intelligence officials.

Iran has fiercely denied any suggestion that all may not be well with the new supreme leader, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi telling the pan-Arab Al-Araby Al-Jadeed news outlet on Sunday that he "is in excellent health" and "in control of the situation, and present at his post."

"The timing of televised messages or direct appearances before the people is his prerogative," he said.

Araghchi made similar remarks a day earlier, insisting that there was "no problem" with Khamenei, and that he "will perform his duties."

These assurances have not convinced everyone.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi looks on after he delivered a speech during a session of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, on the sideline of a second round of US-Iranian talks with Washington in Geneva, on February 17, 2026. (Valentin Flauraud / AFP)

On Sunday, citing "a senior source close to the new Iranian leader," Kuwait's Al-Jarida news outlet reported that Khamenei had been smuggled out of Iran in a secretive Russian operation on Thursday to receive medical treatment in Moscow for injuries sustained in the same airstrikes that killed his father and wife on the first day of the ongoing US-Israeli offensive.

The report alleged that Russian President Vladimir Putin had proposed bringing Khamenei to Russia for treatment to ensure that he would be able to recover properly, without being targeted by Israeli and American airstrikes.

He was accompanied to Russia by a team of Iranian doctors, the report said.

The newspaper further cited a source close to Khamenei as saying that not only did the new supreme leader not write the statement that was delivered by a television presenter last week, but that he did not even see it before it was read out.

The source suggested that it may have been written by Iran's national security chief, Ali Larijani, as it was nearly identical to several statements he has put out in recent days. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-said-briefed-on-us-intel-showing-ali-khamenei-thought-his-son-unfit-to-lead/>

Sa'ar denies reports of talks with Lebanon as Hezbollah keeps up fire on Israel Energy minister says Israel could cancel the 'horrible and illegitimate' 2022 maritime border deal with Lebanon, as government criticizes Beirut for failing to rein in terror group

By [Nava Freiberg](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 5:53 pm



Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar speaks at the site of an Iranian missile impact in the northern Bedouin town of Zarzir, on March 15, 2026. (Shlomi Amsalem/GPO)

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar denied reports on Sunday that Israel and Lebanon are set to hold direct talks in the coming days amid the fighting with Hezbollah, and demanded that Beirut first act against the terror group on its soil.

Sa'ar's comments, made as he visited the site of an Iranian missile impact in the northern Bedouin town of Zarzir, came as Hezbollah continued to fire rockets and drones at Israel, setting off warning sirens as far south as Tel Aviv and sending large

swaths of the country running for shelter.

Israel, meanwhile, continued to strike at Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, with reports saying it was eyeing a wider offensive in the country's south.

Sa'ar's appearance followed [reports](#) that Beirut and Jerusalem are expected to discuss an agreement on confronting Hezbollah and possibly on broader cooperation. Asked by a Reuters reporter if he could confirm those reports, the foreign minister said, "No."

"If the Lebanese government and the Lebanese army want to change something, they should do something in order to stop the attacks being done by Hezbollah from Lebanese territory," Sa'ar said. "Until now, they hadn't done anything significant in order to stop" Hezbollah's attacks.

Lebanon has urged Hezbollah to disarm and drew up a plan to get the terror group to lay down its weapons. But Sa'ar claimed that ever since the November 2024 US-brokered ceasefire with the Iran-backed terror group, "Lebanon hadn't really done what it should have done in order to dismantle Hezbollah, and we see now the results. And we also expect to take some serious steps from their side to stop the shootings on Israel. This is the practical thing to do right now."

"We are all for peace and normalization in the future, including with Lebanon. I think the problem in Lebanon is Hezbollah. We don't have real disputes with the state of Lebanon. We have some minor border disputes that can be solved quite easily. But the problem is Hezbollah," he added.

Sa'ar's comments appeared to conflict with a report Sunday from Army Radio that former strategic affairs minister Ron Dermer, a close aide of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, recently visited Saudi Arabia to discuss with senior Saudi officials an initiative for a possible agreement with the Lebanese government.



A man photographs the rubble of buildings destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon, March 15, 2026. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Dermer has reportedly been enlisted to head the Lebanon file for the prime minister. According to Army Radio, Lebanon, the US, and France are involved in the efforts to agree on what the Lebanon-Israel relationship could look like after the conflict with Hezbollah ends.

The anti-Hezbollah government in Lebanon wants to hold direct talks with Israel in a third country, said the report. Energy Minister Eli Cohen also downplayed the chances of a Lebanon-Israel agreement, telling Army Radio on Sunday that

he was “skeptical” one could be reached. He also called on the Lebanese government to do more to combat Hezbollah.

“We know there’s an almost wall-to-wall coalition... against Hezbollah,” he said. “We know that the president of Lebanon and the army of Lebanon want to disarm Hezbollah, but they can’t, so if you make an agreement with the government of Lebanon, but the military power stays in the hands of Hezbollah, which is controlled from Tehran, it’s hard to see this happening practically.”

Cohen added that the cabinet is considering rescinding the 2022 agreement between Israel and Lebanon that set a maritime border between the two countries. The agreement was inked under the leadership of former prime minister Yair Lapid, and since returning to office, Netanyahu has criticized it as a “surrender” that yielded too much to Lebanon.

Cohen, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud party, echoed that criticism in his interview, calling the agreement a “surrender document” and claiming that it was “born in sin on the eve of elections.”

“It’s a horrible and illegitimate agreement, and so from my standpoint, we must act and cancel this gas agreement,” he said. “This has come up in the cabinet and certainly this matter is being considered, and we must act on it. It never should have been signed.”

Energy Ministry Director General Lior Schillat delivers a statement at the border Rosh HaNikra crossing in northern Israel, known as Ras al-Naqura in Lebanon, following the signature of a maritime border deal between the two countries, on October 27, 2022. (Jack Guez/AFP)



Hezbollah fires 10 rockets at Haifa area, one at Tel Aviv

Early Sunday morning, a long-range rocket launched by Hezbollah from Lebanon at central Israel was intercepted by air defenses, according to initial IDF assessments. There were no reports of injuries.

In a barrage later in the morning, Hezbollah fired approximately 10 rockets at the Haifa area on the northern coast.

There were no reports of injuries. Shortly afterward, sirens sounded in Acre and the surrounding towns amid more Hezbollah rocket fire.

The terror group continued to fire rockets and drones at Israel throughout the morning and into the afternoon.

Hezbollah began to fire missiles and drones across the border on March 2, two days after the US and Israel began strikes on the terror group’s sponsor, Iran. Since then, it has launched some 100 rockets a day, according to the IDF.

The IDF says two-thirds of those rockets have been aimed at Israeli forces operating in southern Lebanon and along the border, while a third have been aimed at Israel.

In addition, Hezbollah has launched more than 100 drones at Israel since the hostilities escalated, the vast majority of which were shot down by the Israeli Air Force, according to the military.

IDF kills Hamas official, terror group says

An Israeli strike in south Lebanon’s Sidon area Sunday killed a Hamas official, a source from the Palestinian terror group said.

The source, requesting anonymity, said the strike killed Hamas official Wissam Taha. State media had reported a strike on an apartment in a residential building in a northern district of Sidon.

In addition, the IDF said that during a wave of airstrikes in Lebanon Saturday, it struck Hezbollah rocket launchers and other infrastructure.

In the al-Qatrani area of south Lebanon, the military said, it struck several Hezbollah rocket-launching sites where operatives had planned “imminent” fire on Israel.



An Israeli self-propelled howitzer artillery gun fires rounds towards southern Lebanon from a position near the border on March 15, 2026. (Odd Andersen/AFP)

In Beirut, the IDF said it struck and destroyed command centers of Hezbollah’s elite Radwan Force, where operatives had been “advancing terror attacks against Israel and its citizens.”

Separately, the military announced that a Palestinian terror operative who was working on behalf of Iran had been killed in an airstrike in Lebanon on Friday.

According to the military, Muhammad Majed Abd al-Salam Tawfiq Zidan was a “key Palestinian terrorist who operated under the

intelligence of the Iranian terror regime and attempted to advance terror attacks” against Israel.

Lebanon’s health ministry said in an updated toll on Sunday that 850 people had been killed in the country since fighting between Israel and Hezbollah renewed some two weeks ago.

The ministry statement said the toll included 66 women, 107 children, and 32 health workers, with 2,105 other people wounded. The statement did not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saar-denies-reports-of-talks-with-lebanon-as-hezbollah-keeps-up-fire-on-israel/>

IDF says no shortage of interceptors, after report claimed stockpile ‘critically low’

In late-night vote, government approves extra funds for defense procurement, hours after US site reports that Israel informed Washington it was running out of ballistic interceptors

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:00 pm Updated at 3:40 pm



Anti-missile batteries fire interceptors toward incoming ballistic missiles launched from Iran, as seen over Tel Aviv, March 15, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

The Israel Defense Forces on Sunday denied reports that Israel is running “critically low” on air defense interceptors, as the war with Iran, in which the Islamic Republic has fired missiles and drones at Israel repeatedly each day, entered its third week.

The denial came hours after the government approved the transfer of an additional NIS 2.6 billion (around \$826 million) in budget funds to the Defense

Ministry for “urgent and essential defense procurement” amid the fighting in Iran and Lebanon. The vote was held by phone, late Saturday night.

An Israeli military official told reporters on Sunday that the IDF had no interceptor shortage as of now. “We prepared for a prolonged conflict. We are monitoring the situation at all times,” the official said.

The IDF has said it is “prepared and ready to handle any scenario,” but initially declined to comment on specific munitions matters following the report from a US news site and a late-night “urgent” government approval of funds for defense procurement.

Speaking Sunday Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar also denied the report Israel was running low on interceptors. Asked at a press conference if there was any veracity to the report Sa’ar replied, “The answer is no,” but did not elaborate.

Military officials told The Times of Israel that the operation in Iran had been planned months in advance,

and this planning took into account Tehran's stock of ballistic missiles and drones that it could fire at Israel.

The officials also said that the IDF has prepared for a long war with Iran, which could last several more weeks, during which ballistic missile fire on Israel will likely continue.

Israel operates a multi-tiered missile defense array, with the Arrow 3 currently the country's most advanced long-range missile defense system, meant to intercept ballistic missiles — like the kind fired from Iran — while they are still outside of the Earth's atmosphere.

David's Sling forms the middle tier, and systems like Iron Dome engage short range rockets like those generally fired from Lebanon.



Illustrative: Israeli Air Force soldiers pose in front of an Arrow air defense system battery, in a photo issued by the IDF on June 26, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Taking Iran's missile stockpile into account means the IDF prepared ahead of time with enough interceptors to handle the threat. Israel also prepared for the likely scenario that the Iran-backed Lebanese terror group Hezbollah would enter the war, as it did on March, 3, saying it was avenging the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

Hezbollah has since fired hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel, as well as at Israeli troops operating in the south of

Lebanon.

Additionally, the officials said the IDF is actually running through fewer interceptors than it anticipated at this point in the operation.

Iran has launched around 300 ballistic missiles at Israel in over two weeks thus far, down from the 500 it fired at Israel during the 12-day war in June 2025.

During the June 2025 war, as well, the IDF denied repeated claims that Israel's interceptor stockpile was low.

The interception rate of Iran's ballistic missiles is high, according to the IDF, and at similar rates to the June 2025 war.

There have been multiple impacts in residential areas of Israel, including three ballistic missiles carrying Iran's conventional warheads of several hundred kilograms and around a dozen with cluster bomb warheads. Twelve people have been killed.



People inspect the damage at the scene where a missile fired toward Israel caused damage in Lod, central Israel, March 14, 2026. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

The military has routinely emphasized that, as good as Israel's multilayered air defenses are, they are not hermetic.

Late Saturday, the US news site [Semafor](#) reported, citing US officials familiar with the matter, that Israel informed the US this week that it is running "critically low" on ballistic missile interceptors.

The report claimed the US has been aware for months that Israel has a low capacity, adding that the US is not running low on interceptors of its own.

Additionally, the report claimed that Iran's launch of cluster munitions "may exacerbate the depletion of the stock," despite Israel's use of shorter-range air defense systems like the Iron Dome and David's Sling to shoot down the individual submunitions, rather than an anti-ballistic missile system.

Israel also uses the shorter-range systems to intercept attacks from Hezbollah in Lebanon, though the report did not say that Israel is running into a shortage of those interceptors.

An Israeli missile defense system fires interceptions at missiles fired from Iran, as seen over central Israel, March 9, 2026. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)



Shortly after the publication of the report, the government approved the transfer of an additional NIS 2.6 billion (around \$826 million) in budget funds to the Defense Ministry for “urgent and essential defense procurement” amid the fighting in Iran and Lebanon. The vote was held by phone, late at night.

In a statement, the government said it will cut NIS 1.5 billion from the 2025-2026 budget for interest and commission payments, and take the other NIS 1.1 billion out of the 2025-2026 budgets of other ministries.

It said, however, that if the 2026-2027 budget is approved later this month, as scheduled, the NIS 2.6 billion will instead come from the Defense Ministry budget as normal.

The government voted last week on a revised version of the budget that boosted the Defense Ministry’s funds by NIS 32 billion in light of the war with Iran. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-ready-for-any-scenario-amid-reports-that-missile-interceptors-critically-low/>

Gulf states hesitate on response to Iran after regime launches more than 2,000 missiles and drones

Sources from Gulf states who spoke to the Post said that one reason those countries have not launched an attack is their concern about the “day after.”



Smoke rises above Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 5, 2026(photo credit: REUTERS/STRINGER)ByAMICHAEL STEINMARCH 15, 2026 20:53Updated: MARCH 15, 2026 23:15

Two weeks into the war, and despite more than 2,000 missiles and drones launched by Iran toward Gulf states, a public retaliatory strike against Iran still does not appear to be on the horizon.

According to sources from Gulf states who spoke with The Jerusalem Post, one of the reasons they have not launched an attack with a claim of responsibility is their concern about “the day after.”

“There are many unanswered questions about how the war will end,” a Gulf official told the *Post*. “It’s possible that in the end, the regime will not fall, that [US President Donald] Trump will decide the event is over, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-based regime will remain in place. In that case, Gulf states would have to continue dealing with Tehran and maintain some form of relationship with it.”

Another reason Gulf states are reluctant to attack Iran is the fear of a significant [escalation in Iranian strikes](#), including an expansion of the list of targets that might be hit with missiles and drones.

“It’s not as if Iran isn’t already [firing](#) or hitting civilian targets,” another Gulf source said. “But it could be much worse. We know Iran still has capabilities it has not yet used, and that concern is always there.”



Smoke rises in the Fujairah oil industry zone following a fire caused by debris after interception of a drone by air defenses, according to the Fujairah media office, amid the U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran, in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, March 3, 2026. (credit: REUTERS/AMR ALFIKY)

Gulf states hesitate to strike Iran, fear escalation

Although all six Gulf countries have been attacked, looking at their positions reveals no clear consensus on how to respond to Iran.

Oman, for example, condemned the joint Israeli-American strike against Iran and also condemned attacks against countries in the region – without specifying who carried them out.

At the other end of the spectrum is the United Arab Emirates. UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed said Iran is an enemy, and Anwar Gargash, one of his senior advisers, wrote on X/Twitter that the Iranian assault was a terrorist attack.

The difficulty in reaching a consensus is another reason why a strike is unlikely in the near future, according to officials from Gulf states.

“There are so many opinions and so many different approaches to managing relations at this moment, and

none of the countries wants to act alone,” one official told the Post. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-890040>

Moscow protests after Israeli strike hits near Russian scientists in Iran’s Bushehr

The attack ended without Russian casualties, with Russian officials stating that repeated strikes near Russian experts are unacceptable, warning that Israel must take precautionary measures.

By **AMICHAEL STEINMARCH** 15, 2026 21:44



In this pool photograph distributed by the Russian state agency Sputnik, Russia's President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Moscow-installed head of the Donetsk region, Russian-controlled Ukraine, at the Kremlin in Moscow on March 10, 2026. (photo credit: Gavriil Grigorov / POOL / AFP via Getty Images)

Russian officials lodged an official protest with Israel in recent days after a strike near the Iranian city of Bushehr unknowingly hit in the vicinity of Russian scientists working in the area, according to a source familiar with the details.

The strike targeted a nuclear power plant near Bushehr as part of Israel’s Operation Roaring Lion against Iran’s Islamic regime.

The attack ended without Russian casualties, but Moscow complained that the target struck was located in a residential area where workers from the power plant live.

Russian officials told Israeli counterparts that repeated [strikes](#) near Russian experts are unacceptable and warned that Israel must take precautionary measures.



Alexey Likhachev, CEO of Rosatom, speaks at the official opening of the construction site on February 5, 2026 in Paks, Hungary. (credit: Janos Kummer/Getty Images)

A few days ago, Alexey Likhachev, director-general of Rosatom, said that approximately 639 Russian personnel remain in Iran.

Likhachev warned about the danger posed by strikes near [Iranian nuclear facilities](#), saying explosions could be heard “just kilometers away” from the Bushehr plant, though the facility itself was not targeted.

Previous assurances of safety for Russian workers

In 2025, during Operation Rising Lion, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Israel had provided assurances regarding the safety of Russian personnel working at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

“We agreed with the leadership of Israel that their security would be ensured,” Putin said.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-890048>

'Not very bright': US intel. shows Khamenei was unsure of his son replacing him as leader - report

*CBS added that the White House further believes that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is currently pulling the strings within Iran. By **MIRIAM SELA-EITAM** MARCH 15, 2026 16:55*



A woman holds a portrait of Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, on the day of a gathering to support Mojtaba Khamenei, amid the US-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran, Iran, March 9, 2026. (photo credit: Majid Asgaripour/West Asia News Agency/Reuters)

US intelligence shows that Ali Khamenei was wary about his son **replacing him as supreme leader of Iran, CBS News reported on Sunday, citing multiple sources briefed on the matter.**

Iran’s Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was perceived by his father as being “not very bright” and “unqualified to be leader,” according to the sources, and that he also struggled in his personal life.

The information was reportedly shared with US President Donald Trump, US Vice President JD Vance and select other senior officials, though Trump does not know if knowing this matters, as he believes Mojtaba to be “possibly dead.”

Trump hinted at this during a Friday interview with Fox News, saying that Iran’s “leadership is gone. Their second leadership is gone. Now their third leadership is in trouble, and this is not somebody that the father even wanted.”

Last week, Iranian state television reported that Mojtaba had been wounded in the ongoing war, though did not provide additional detail into the injury or if it has impacted his duties as supreme leader.



A schoolgirl holds up a poster of Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei during an anti-US and Israel demonstration in Baghdad on March 12, 2026. Air strikes killed at least nine Iran-backed fighters in Iraq on March 12 near the Iraqi-Syrian border, two senior security officials told AFP. (credit: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP via Getty Images)
Mojtaba not seen in public since his appointment

There have [not been any signs of life](#) from him since his appointment to Iran's supreme leader.

Mojtaba did not appear either on Thursday, when a newscaster on Iranian state television read out his first address while a photo of him was shown. In the statement, he vowed to keep the Strait of Hormuz shut and called on neighboring countries to close US bases on their territory or risk Iran targeting them.

On Friday, US Defense Secretary [Pete Hegseth](#) also said that Mojtaba is wounded and likely disfigured, before, questioning Khamenei's ability to lead after nearly two weeks of US and Israeli attacks on Iran.

CBS added that the White House further believes that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is currently

pulling the strings within Iran.

Spokespeople for the CIA, White House, and vice president, all declined to comment on the matter.

Shir Perets, Amichai Stein, and Reuters contributed to this report.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-890011>

Iran arrests 500 accused of giving information to enemies, police chief says

Israel has begun targeting security checkpoints based on tip-offs from informants on the ground, representing a new phase of its assault on Iran, a source told Reuters this week.

ByREUTERSMARCH 15, 2026 22:05



A police officer stands guard as funerals are held for members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and other military figures at Enghelab Square on March 11, 2026 in Tehran, Iran.(photo credit: Majid Saedi/Getty Images)

Iran has [arrested](#) 500 people accused of sharing information with enemies, the Islamic Republic's police chief said on Sunday, as Israeli and US fighter jets continue to strike new targets in the country.

Half of those cases had involved serious incidents "including people who provided information for [hitting targets](#) and

individuals who took footage of strike locations and sent them," Ahmadreza Radan said, without going into detail on when the arrests took place.

Earlier, Iranian media reported dozens of arrests in several regions on Sunday.

In northwestern Iran, the semi-official Tasnim news agency said 20 people were arrested on accusations by the provincial prosecutor's office of sending location details on [Iran's military](#) and security assets to Israel.

In northeastern Iran, which has remained relatively untouched by air strikes, Tasnim reported the arrest of 10 people, with some accused of collecting information on sensitive locations and economic infrastructure.



A police officer stands guard beneath a poster of Iran's former leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on March 10, 2026 in Tehran, Iran. (credit: Majid Saeedi/Getty Images)

"As the Zionist enemy (Israel) and the US are attempting to [invade Iran](#), they simultaneously activate mercenaries and spies to carry out riots as the next step," a provincial branch of the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence organization said, according to Tasnim.

The Student News Network also reported that three people were detained in the western province of Lorestan for "seeking to disturb public opinion ... and burn mourning symbols."

New IDF targets in Iran

Israel has begun targeting security checkpoints based on tip-offs from informants on the ground, representing a new phase of

its assault on Iran, a source briefed on Israel's military strategy told Reuters this week.

In January, weeks before the US and Israel launched the current war against Iran, there were widespread anti-government protests in Iran that were repressed in the deadliest crackdown in the Islamic Republic's history.

Authorities had blamed Israel and the US for fomenting what they said were "violent riots" aimed at overthrowing the clerical establishment. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-890051>

IDF has destroyed 85-90% of Hezbollah's pre-2023 rocket arsenal

Lebanon is still secondary to Iran, which has provided Hezbollah \$1.5 billion since the ceasefire.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) MARCH 15, 2026 18:00 Updated: MARCH 15, 2026 20:45



IDF soldiers operate against Hezbollah terrorists in southern Lebanon, March 10, 2026 (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Eighty-five percent to 90% of Hezbollah's pre-2023 rocket arsenal has been destroyed, the IDF reported Sunday.

Before the war, Hezbollah had more than 150,000 rockets, it said.

By the November 2024 ceasefire, 70% to 80% of the rocket arsenal had been destroyed, the IDF said.

Later in 2025, about 30,000 rockets remained, the IDF said.

The IDF's update on Sunday suggests that over the course of 2025, and more intensely since Hezbollah entered the war on March 2, the military has gradually reduced that total to between 10,000 and 23,000 rockets.



An IDF tank conducting a strike on Hezbollah terrorists in southern Lebanon, March 10, 2026. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Despite the overall improved situation in Hezbollah's general [threat](#) potential, the Lebanese terrorist group has surprised the IDF in terms of its actual potential by launching about 100 rockets or drones per day against Israel, including nearly 200 on March 11.

IDF gets surprised by a wave of 200 rockets

The IDF has succeeded somewhat in disarming Hezbollah by disrupting what could have been even worse rocket fire.

For example, when Hezbollah fired 200 rockets on March 11, its original plan was to fire about 600, the IDF said.

Nevertheless, the IDF was surprised by the 200-rocket attack, which caused more physical damage than expected in the North and left local residents concerned about whether they were safe enough to remain in their communities for a potentially extended conflict with Hezbollah.

The IDF had vowed to provide sufficient security so that local residents would not need to evacuate as they did under attack by a more powerful version of Hezbollah in October 2023.

In addition to the general, mostly shorter-range rockets, Hezbollah also has about 1,000 long-range precision-guided rockets.

In response to the Hezbollah threat, the IDF has redeployed five divisions to southern Lebanon and has been sending Divisions 91 and 36 deeper into Lebanese territory.

More than 350 Hezbollah fighters have been killed, including about a third who were Radwan special forces, and many senior commanders.

Last week, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir said the Iran and Lebanon fronts were now comparable.

Despite that seeming shift, the IDF on Sunday said Iran was still the primary front, and Lebanon will remain the secondary front until the war against the Islamic regime comes to a close or close to the end.

Given that the entire \$1.5 billion Hezbollah has received since the November 2024 ceasefire has come from Iran, any attacks on Tehran are like attacks on the Lebanese terrorist group itself, and in some ways, they are even worse for its existential long-term strength, the IDF said.

Nevertheless, Hezbollah may still be able to draw on up to tens of thousands of fighters to maintain its power in Lebanon, and there is little evidence that the IDF can quickly "sniff out" the majority of the remaining rockets before they are fired.

Instead, the military tends to hit launchers after they fire, which could leave the home front vulnerable to some extent for an extended period.

Some IDF officers have suggested that only once the full IAF is focused on Lebanon and not Iran will Hezbollah rocket fire be much more substantially reduced.

The US is fully supportive of Israel taking a tough line against Hezbollah, including the many airstrikes in Beirut's Dahiya neighborhood, its stronghold, the IDF said Sunday.

The Lebanese government has started to make some progress in disarming Hezbollah, yet the pace is too slow, and also slower than Hezbollah's additional rearming efforts, it said. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-890003>

Michigan synagogue attacker's brother was Hezbollah terrorist killed by Air Force, IDF confirms

"Ibrahim Muhammad Ghazali was responsible for managing weapons operations within a specialized branch of the Badr Unit," the IDF said, citing an intelligence report. By [TOBIAS HOLCMAN](#) MARCH 15, 2026 16:05



Emergency personnel respond to a reported shooting incident at Temple Israel synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan, US, March 12, 2026. (photo credit: Dave Boucher/USA Today Network via REUTERS)

The Lebanese man who attacked a synagogue in Michigan, US, last week was the brother of a terrorist commander for Hezbollah in Lebanon who was killed in an airstrike, the IDF revealed in a statement on Sunday.

"Ibrahim Muhammad Ghazali was responsible for managing weapons operations within a specialized branch of the Badr

Unit," the IDF said, citing an intelligence report.

"The unit is responsible for launching hundreds of rockets toward Israeli civilians throughout the war," the military added.

The military then confirmed that Ghazali's brother, Ayman Muhammad Ghazali, was the one who attacked the Temple Israel Synagogue in [Michigan](#) with his truck on Thursday.

"Ibrahim was eliminated in an IAF strike on a Hezbollah military structure last week," the IDF said.

41-year-old Ghazali immigrated to the US from Lebanon and became a naturalized citizen in 2016.

Michigan synagogue shooter had vehicle full of fireworks, shot himself during attack

[Ghazali had filled his vehicle with fireworks](#) before ramming it into the building, according to a Friday statement by FBI Special Agent Jennifer Runyan.

Runyan further stated that the terrorist killed himself during a gunfight with security guards after his truck got stuck in Temple Israel Synagogue's hallway.

The attacker had purchased \$2,000 worth of fireworks from a Detroit-area shop two days prior to the attack, according to NBC News. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-890005>

Intl. Al Quds marches see thousands chant Hamas, Hezbollah support, blood libels

Al Quds Day rallies spark controversy as protesters support Hamas, Hezbollah, and the IRGC. Despite bans in several countries, rallies continue with strong police presence.

By **MATHILDA HELLER** MARCH 15, 2026 19:38



A demonstrator holds a portrait of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at Times Square during an Al-Quds Day rally in Manhattan, New York City, US, March 13, 2026. (photo credit: REUTERS/DAVID 'DEE' DELGADO)

Thousands of pro-Palestine and pro-Iranian regime protesters around the world have taken to the streets for Al Quds Day events over the weekend, despite various countries initiating bans on rallies.

Al-Quds Day ("Jerusalem Day") is an annual event held on the last Friday of Ramadan to express solidarity with Palestinians and show

support for Iran's Islamic Regime. It was established by Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979.

The UK's Quds Day march received particular attention this year after Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announced it would be banned for the first time ever.

The Metropolitan Police subsequently said that the rally, set to take place on Sunday, 15 March, could take the form of a static protest only.

The ban resulted from a reasonable risk of support for terror or serious public disorder. Additionally, the rally is organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), a group believed to have extensive ties to the Islamic regime in Iran and Iranian-backed extremism.



A protester steps on a US flag, at the end of a rally marking Al-Quds Day and opposing the war on Iran and Lebanon, at the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 14, 2026. (credit: REUTERS/Laura Proctor)

The Met restricted the protest time to a two-hour window between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Several thousand people nevertheless took to the streets of London (near Albert Embankment) on Sunday for the static protest. Most held IRGC flags, Palestinian flags, or posters of [former Islamic Republic supreme leader Ali Khamenei](#).

'Death to America, Death to Israel'

There were also chants of "[Death to America](#)," "[Death to Israel](#)," and "Smash the Zionist settler state." One man carried a sign reading "Boom boom Tel Aviv."

Videos showed a heavy police presence, including helicopters, police boats, and riot police. Al-Quds Day was heavily policed by four helicopters and riot squad police.

IHRC said "the ban has only had the effect of pulling in more attention and support for Al-Quds Day" and slammed "the orchestrated hate campaign by pro-Israel politicians and media to thwart the annual event."

However, Assistant Commissioner and the lead for Public Order Ade Adelekan said,

"We did not take the decision to ban the marches lightly; this is a unique set of circumstances, and it was our assessment that the risk of public disorder was so severe that we did not have any other choice."

Similar chants of "Death to Israel/America" and chants of terror support were heard across the United States during Friday marches.

A rally through New York saw speakers proclaim support for Hamas, Hezbollah, and the IRGC. The rally was mainly organized by prominent anti-Israel groups such as Pal-Awda, the Bronx Anti-War Coalition, and the Workers World Party.

One video showed a mass chant of "Say it loud, say it clear, we support Hezbollah here," and then the same chant for Hamas.

Another speaker said, "We proclaim our support for the Islamic Republic... We condemn to the absolute highest degree the US-Zionist targeted assassination of the leader and martyr... Ali Khamenei. Martyrdom is our

highest honor.”

'Stop eating babies'

One of the speakers led chants of “Stop eating babies, stop raping children,” playing on the libel that Jews eat babies.

Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) flags were also flown.

In Chicago, protesters chanted: “Iran, Iran make us proud” and “IRGC make us proud, bomb these genocidal clowns.”

Speakers in both Chicago and NYC praised the “heroic Al Aqsa Flood” in reference to the October 7, 2023, massacre that Hamas and other Palestinians carried out in the south of Israel.

There were also frequent mentions of Jeffrey Epstein [in London too]. Since the start of the Iran conflict, a conspiracy theory alleging that the war was launched to distract from the Epstein files has become popular.

In New York City, the Israeli flag was displayed with Epstein’s image replacing the Star of David, and in Houston, a display said “Epstein axis vs resistance axis.”

The Anti-Defamation League said it was “deeply troubled by the dangerous rhetoric at this year’s Quds Day rallies across the US, where protesters have openly expressed support for terror groups and the October 7, 2023, massacre and shared antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories.”

“This is open support for terrorism, the destruction of Israel and the US, violent threats against Jews. and promotion of antisemitic conspiracy theories,” the ADL noted.

The Al Quds march in Toronto on Saturday also received significant media attention, after Ontario Premier Doug Ford tried to secure a last-minute injunction against it.

“Hate, violence, and intimidation have no place on the streets of Canada, and our government will fight it however we can,” he said.

However, an Ontario judge rejected the request to block the event, citing Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Ford said he was “extremely disappointed” that the court refused to put a stop to Al-Quds Day, “which has long been a venue for antisemitism, hatred, intimidation and the glorification of terrorism.”

Toronto police estimated that 4,500 people attended the Al-Quds Day rally outside the US Consulate.

During the event, terror flags were displayed, including those of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Islamic regime flags; there was the beating of drums, and chanting “Free Palestine.”

Most shocking, perhaps, was the fact that the judge requested a response from Samidoun when considering Ford’s injunction, despite the fact that Samidoun is proscribed as a terror organization in Canada.

While Samidoun claimed it was not present at the march, it issued an urgent call for its supporters to mobilize and protest, and also published a comprehensive list of rally locations and dates worldwide.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-890036>

OP ED

How Gov. Newsom Funneled Millions to Himself

Sat, 14 Mar 2026 9:45 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



Gov. Gavin Newsom had helped set up a state government agency for his wife and then a quasi-government non-profit to which he has directed millions of dollars which in turn helped promote yet another non-profit that puts millions of dollars in the pockets of the Newsoms.

That convoluted arrangement may explain why Newsom won’t turn over his tax returns.

Gov. Newsom promised to be the first California governor to release his tax returns every year, but media outlets have been grumbling that the last time he released a tax return was quite a few years ago when he was legally required to because he was running for reelection.

The questions got louder when he [bought a \\$9 million house](#) in addition to their \$6 million house. The new 5,609 square foot estate comes with a spa, sculptures and Brazilian decks, and was bought from a member of the billionaire Pritzker clan, who have been one of Newsom’s major donors, and carries a \$6.5 million mortgage with \$600,000 in annual payments plus over \$100,000 in property taxes. Some have been asking where all that money was coming from.

This may only be the tip of the iceberg considering that in 2019, the Newsoms [had paid their](#) household staff \$288,000 alone. Assuming that the staffing costs have kept pace, California's first family should be looking at very some very huge bills to maintain their outrageous lifestyle.

As of last fall, Newsom [still hasn't](#) released a tax return. We do know that Newsom's income [shot up by](#) \$500,000 to \$1.7 million in his first year in office. Back then, his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, was earning \$151,000, through her 'non-profit', The Representation Project, which set out to teach children, [especially boys](#), about the evils of gender roles and masculinity.

Since then Newsom's gubernatorial salary grew from \$210,000 to \$242,295: a sizable raise, but even with his winery, restaurant and investments in a blind trust, it may not explain his spending.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom, whose boutique causes include gender pay parity, however has been earning a higher salary than her husband as her non-profit took in \$1.5 million in 2024 and 20% of that money went to her with \$150,000 going directly to her as salary and another \$150,000 going to her Girls Club Entertainment LLC for compensation as "Writer/Producer/Director".

Girls Club Entertainment is listed as an "independent contractor" even though it also admits on the same tax filing that "Girls Club Entertainment LLC (GCE), a single member LLC, is owned by Jennifer Siebel Newsom" and also claims that she serves as the writer, producer and director of the various 'documentaries' that she licenses to her non-profit which then reimburses her.

Since the non-profit, originally titled 'Miss Representation' after the name of one of her 'documentaries', was set up to promote them, the arrangement appears to exist to allow her to benefit from non-profit funding while diverting a significant amount of the funds to herself.

An arrangement under which Newsom's wife is simultaneously the CEO, board member and an 'independent contractor', who manages to cash out a significant percentage of its revenues, is legally dubious and risks falling under the IRS prohibitions against self-enrichment.

In 2023, Newsom's non-profit took in \$1 million and again paid out \$300,000 or around a third to her. In 2020, it took in a little over \$800,000 and she received the same amount or 37%. The Daily Mail [estimated](#) that her total came in at over \$3.7 million in the decade.

Where was all that money coming from to what would normally be just another obscure organization? The [answer in part is the](#) government and government lobbyists and contractors. The 'films' made by Newsom's wife have been shown in thousands of schools and received millions in revenues. More money [has come through](#) donations from major companies that do business with the state or are lobbying the state for some favorable treatment.

At the Project's most recent 'Flip the Script' benefit, "celebrating the 10th anniversary of Jennifer Siebel Newsom's groundbreaking film, Miss Representation", the co-chair was Gavin Newsom's sister, who runs their joint company, the other co-chairs were Lori Puccinelli Stern, the wife of the San Francisco Airport Commissioner, who heads a PR firm, and Joanna Rees, a venture capitalist who was appointed to a board by Newsom.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom's outsized media presence is partly funded by California taxpayers.

After taking office, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that he was creating an 'Office of the First Partner' for his wife led by two senior staffers with combined salaries of over a quarter of a million dollars. The most [recent organizational chart](#) for the office shows 7 staffers including two communications staffers just for Newsom's wife: all with six figure salaries.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom co-created yet another non-profit for the Office of the First Partner, the California Partners Project: a 501(c)(4). The partisan non-profit, which regularly attacks Republicans, is directly linked to and promoted by the California governor's site. Its board includes Becky Beland McNaught who was originally hired as the chief of staff at the Office of the First Partner. McNaught made opening remarks at a screening of one of her 'films' that was sponsored by the California Partners Project and the Representation Project.

The California Partners Project claims a semi-official status, stating that it operates "in partnership with the people of California." What it does is promote Newsom's wife and her non-profit which provides millions in income to Gov. Newsom and his wife.

In 2022, the LA Daily News reported that The California Partners Project had collected \$1.6 million [in 'behested payments'](#) through Gov. Newsom. These are payments that were requested by Newsom on behalf of his wife's organization. By 2023, the amount had risen to \$2.4 million.

Newsom requested that one donor, an Indian tribe seeking to block a rival's casino, [donate \\$500,000](#), before intervening on its behalf. By 2025, the amount was up [to \\$2 million](#).

Is Gov. Newsom pressuring and rewarding companies for donating to his wife's non-profit and does that non-profit then help promote his wife's other extremely profitable 'non-profit'?

Other state agencies have also worked to promote Jennifer Siebel Newsom's lucrative non-profit including the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, in theory a non-partisan state agency, which pushed her 'documentary' Miss Representation.

Holly Martinez, the executive director of the Commission, switched to serving as the executive director of Mrs. Newsom's Representation Project and then as her Chief of Staff in the Office of the First Partner, illustrating how government agencies, the paid non-profit and the First Lady's office have become an interchangeable game of musical chairs all to promote one woman.

And her organization that has put millions of dollars into the pockets of the Newsoms.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom has proven to be quite adroit at moving money and influence from non-profits and foundations that she controls to herself. For example, the Siebel Family Charitable Foundation, a family foundation where she acts as a director, provided \$23,000, [one of its largest grants](#), as of its last tax filing, to The

Newsom was an honorary board member of the International Museum of Women, that was set to be launched in San Francisco and that was supposed to be publicly funded, but instead burned through millions of dollars, but did partner with The Representation Project. Gavin Newsom and his wife had served as honorary co-chairs for the museum's fundraiser.

She was a board member of KQED, the local PBS affiliate, which provided gushing coverage of not only her husband's administration, but also promoted her 'documentaries'. Like so much else, this arrangement appears to have been useful for both halves of the power couple.

The networks of non-profits, some state, some funded by those who have business with the state, has clearly played a role in allowing the Newsoms to afford their lavish lifestyle.

Many of these questions could be cleared up if the Newsoms would release their tax returns.

In 2019, Gov. Newsom championed a law forcing presidential candidates to release their returns. The purpose of the law was to target Trump. Fortunately for Newsom, the law was found to be unconstitutional, and so he won't have to release his tax returns or address the many conflicts of interest and the ways that he has grown even richer while governor.

Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's Front Page Magazine.

<https://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>



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