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LIVE UPDATES

US-Israel strikes on Iran trigger retaliation: Live Updates, reactions (VIDEO)

President Donald Trump has confirmed “major combat operations” are underway to eliminate Tehran’s nuclear program and bring about a change in its government



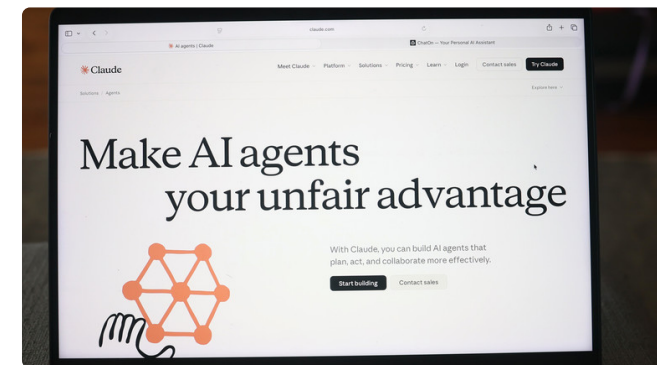
© Getty Images

The US and Israel launched an attack on Iran on Saturday, with President Donald Trump confirming that “*major combat operations*” are underway.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry said the US and Israel had struck military and civilian targets, “*blatantly violating*” the country’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In a statement on Saturday morning Moscow condemned what it called a “*premeditated and unprovoked act*”

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US wants war with Iran – Scott Ritter (VIDEO) **EXCLUSIVE**

Iran-backed armed group warns of ‘long war’ if US strikes Tehran

of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent member state of the UN.”

The US-Israeli strike triggered wave of responses across the Middle East. Explosions have been reported in multiple countries in the Gulf, as well as Lebanon and the Houthi armed group based in Yemen has announced it will begin targeting shipping.

In a video posted on Truth Social, Trump vowed to decimate Iran’s military, eliminate its nuclear program, and bring about a change in its government. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed in a video statement that a *“joint operation”* had been launched against what he described as the *“existential threat”* posed by Iran. He said the US-Israeli military action could *“create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their destiny into their own hands.”*

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced that, in response to aggression by a *“hostile and criminal enemy,”* it has launched the first wave of extensive missile and drone strikes on Israeli targets.

Explosions have reportedly been heard in Israeli cities, and the Israeli military said it had detected ballistic missiles launched from Iran, describing them as the first wave of retaliation.

Large explosions have been heard in the Iranian capital, Tehran, and residents have reported seeing smoke rising from a district that houses the presidential palace and the Supreme National Security Council, according to local accounts.

The strikes came after indirect nuclear talks in Geneva between Tehran and Washington ended inconclusively on Friday and amid a massive US military build-up in the region.

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12:32 GMT

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Aragchi on Saturday, according to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Lavrov condemned the *“unprovoked armed attack”* by the US and Israel on Iran, and urged an immediate halt to the strikes. He stressed that Russia is ready, including in the UN Security Council, to facilitate the search for peaceful solutions based on international law, mutual respect, and a balance of interests.

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RT Features



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12:32 GMT

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that the *“outbreak of war”* in the Middle East *“carries grave consequences for international peace and security”* while urging for a UN Security Council meeting.

He insisted that Iran must *“understand that it now has no other option but to engage in good faith in negotiations to end its nuclear and ballistic programs.”*

12:29 GMT

A UK government spokesperson has said Iran *“must never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon”* while calling for a *“negotiated solution.”*

READ MORE: UK urges Israel to reverse West Bank move

The spokesman stressed that while *“we do not want to see further escalation into a wider regional conflict,”* the UK *“stand[s] ready to protect our interests.”*

12:26 GMT

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has indicated that both sides are to blame for the conflict. Madrid, he said, denounces *“unilateral military action by the United States and Israel,”* saying that it *“represents an escalation and contributes to a more uncertain and hostile international order.”*

“We likewise reject the actions of the Iranian regime and the Revolutionary Guard. We cannot afford another prolonged and devastating war in the Middle East.”



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0:00  27:30   

 **istleblow** The end of NATO: US plans to expand into Greenland test Atlantic treaty

0:00  27:8   

12:21 GMT

Israel has banned public gatherings, shut schools and workplaces and moved hospital patients to underground facilities. The police have also asked people to forego non-essential travel to allow security and emergency vehicles to move freely.

Defense Minister Israel Katz has declared a state of emergency across the country, warning the public of Iranian missile and drone attacks.

12:21 GMT

Explosions continue to be heard periodically in Qatar's capital as air defenses continue to intercept Iranian missiles, according to Al Jazeera.



© Al Jazeera

This latest series of blasts comes after multiple missiles were fired towards Qatar and other Gulf states.



© Al Jazeera

12:16 GMT

Saudi Arabia has condemned Iranian attacks on US military bases across the region in the *“strongest terms”* while warning Tehran of *“consequences”* should it continue its actions which it said violate international law.

12:15 GMT

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has described the Middle East escalation as *“perilous,”* but noted that Iran’s *“ballistic missile and nuclear programs, along with support for terror groups, pose a serious threat to global security.”*

12:15 GMT

At least 35 ballistic missiles have been launched from Iran to Israel, according to the preliminary military assessment cited by the Times of Israel.

12:14 GMT

CNN reported, citing sources, that the Israeli attack was aimed at Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Masoud Pezeshkian, armed forces Chief of Staff Sayyid Abdolrahim Mousavi, the secretary of Iran’s Defense Council, Ali Shamkhani, and the secretary of Iran’s National Security Council, Ali Larijani.

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12:09 GMT

According to IRNA news agency, an Israeli strike on a girls' school in Minab, southern Iran, killed five people, with some reporting suggesting the death toll could be much higher.

Warning: Disturbing video

12:09 GMT

The UAE has joined the condemnation of what it described as *“brazen Iranian rocket attacks”* targeting the nation and its neighbors.

12:08 GMT

The Qatari Foreign Ministry has issued a *“strong condemnation of the targeting of Qatari territory with Iranian ballistic missiles,”* describing it as *“a flagrant violation of its national sovereignty.”*

12:07 GMT

Journalist Ibrahim Wahdi has told RT that the new US-Israeli strikes differ from the operation carried out against Iran last year.

“It’s not like the 12-day war last year. This time it’s a joint military attack directly targeting the political establishment in addition to the [Iranian] Supreme Leader’s headquarters,” Wahdi said.



Targeting a sovereign country is an escalation that goes beyond military messages and threatens the whole region, he added.

11:56 GMT

Iraqi group Kataib Hezbollah has threatened imminent attacks on US bases in response to the strikes

targeting Iran.



Kataib Hezbollah is one of the largest groups within the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), founded in 2014 to stop lightning advances by Islamic State at the time.

Two fighters were killed in US-Israeli airstrikes that hit the Jurf al-Sakhar base, also known as Jurf al-Nasr, in southern Iraq, according to Al Jazeera.

Read more: Iran-backed armed group warns of 'long war' if US strikes Tehran

11:34 GMT

In case you've just joined us:

- US President Donald Trump has vowed that a *"massive and ongoing"* campaign against Iran will crush its military, eliminate its nuclear program, and bring about a change in the government.
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards says it has launched the first large-scale wave of retaliatory missile and drone strikes towards Israel.
- Bahrain has said a missile attack has targeted the US Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in the country, while another missile has been intercepted in Qatar. An explosion has also been reported in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, while countries across the region have shut their airspace.
- Multiple explosions have been heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, while blasts have also been reported in several other locations across the country.

11:25 GMT

An American official has told Al Jazeera that the US will *"continue our strikes against Iran over the coming days."*

11:17 GMT

Russia's Foreign Ministry has condemned US-Israeli strikes on Iran, calls for urgent diplomatic response.

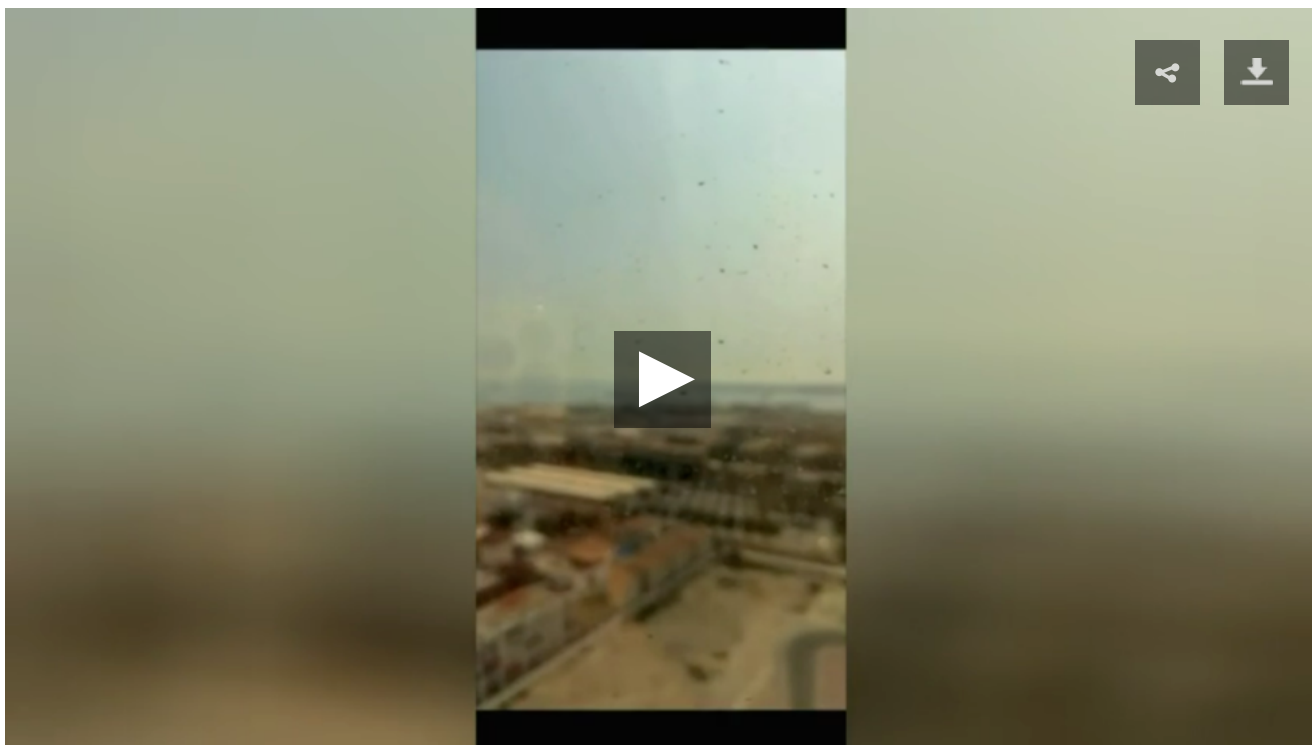
In a statement released on Sunday, Moscow said the scale of military, political, and media preparations preceding the strikes, including the buildup of a large US military presence in the region, left little doubt

that the operation had been planned in advance and violated fundamental principles of international law.

The ministry described the strikes as a *“premeditated and unprovoked act of aggression”* against a sovereign UN member state.

10:38 GMT

An American reacts to Iranian attack on naval base in Bahrain.



© Social Media

10:21 GMT

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has struck the American naval base in Bahrain with missiles, according to Iranian media agency Fars.

Smoke was seen rising from the Juffair area of Bahrain, where the US Navy's Fifth Fleet is headquartered – as seen in this video:



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10:03 GMT

Iran's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement calling Saturday's strikes a *"criminal military aggression"* by the US and Israel, saying they took place while Iran was *"in the midst of a diplomatic process."*

The ministry said *"now is the time to defend the homeland and confront the military aggression of the enemy"* and called on UN member states to condemn what it described as an act of aggression and a violation of the UN Charter.

09:55 GMT

US military bases in Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have been targeted by

Iranian missile strikes, Mehr News has reported.

Iran's armed forces general staff said any military base of a country providing assistance to Israel would become a target for strikes by the Islamic Republic.

09:33 GMT

The United Arab Emirates has announced a 'temporary and partial' closure of the country's airspace.

Explosions have been heard in Bahrain, APA reports, citing Al Arabiya TV.

It is also reported that Qatar has closed its airspace.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Qatar issued an alert ordering Americans to shelter-in-place due to an imminent missile threat.

09:29 GMT

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has denounced the latest strikes. The deputy chairman of the Security Council highlighted that all of the recent negotiations with Iran are merely a cover operation, noting that no one really doubted this and that there was little genuine desire to reach any agreements.

09:17 GMT

Sirens heard in Jerusalem



© RT

09:12 GMT

Unconfirmed media reports suggest that at least one Iranian missile exploded in Bahrain, which hosts a major US naval base in Manama. Footage circulating on social media shows what appears to be plumes of smoke over the facility.

Earlier in the day, the US Embassy said it was *“implementing a shelter-in-place for all personnel”* while recommending all American citizens *“do the same until further notice.”*

09:09 GMT

In the wake of the strikes, Israeli intelligence has launched a propaganda campaign targeting the people of Iran, urging them to share photos and videos of *“resistance against the regime.”*

09:09 GMT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the latest military operation is aimed to achieve regime change in Iran. In his first video statement regarding the US-Israel strikes on the Islamic Republic, he reiterated demands that Iran curb its nuclear program.

09:08 GMT

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced that, in response to aggression by a *“hostile and criminal enemy”* against the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has launched the first wave of extensive missile and drone strikes on Israeli targets.

08:40 GMT

General Amir Hatami, Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Army, has been killed in a series of IDF attacks on Iran, according to unconfirmed reports from the Israeli media. Authorities in the Islamic Republic have yet to confirm the claim.

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