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Israel and Iran clash for third day as death toll mounts: LIVE UPDATES

At least 19 people were killed in Israel and 224 in Iran, according to official figures



Rescue workers clear rubble after Iranian missile strikes on June 15, 2025, in Bat Yam, Israel. © Amir Levy / Getty Images

Israel and Iran engaged in a third consecutive day of intense, open warfare on Saturday and into Sunday, with both nations launching devastating attacks.

According to Israeli police, Iranian strikes have killed at least 19 people as of Monday morning. Meanwhile, Iran’s Health Ministry reported that 224 people were killed in Israeli strikes as of Sunday evening.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) targeted critical energy infrastructure in Iran, striking a refinery in the South Pars gas field – the world’s largest – and an oil

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depot in Tehran. Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Tel Aviv, hitting residential apartment blocks, and struck an oil refinery in Haifa.

On Friday, Israeli jets bombed multiple targets across Iran, including a uranium enrichment center in Natanz, and carried out targeted assassinations of several senior military commanders and scientists. Iran retaliated by firing dozens of ballistic missiles into Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strikes, dubbed Operation Rising Lion, aimed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran condemned the attack as unprovoked and suspended nuclear talks with the US, with the latest round of negotiations scheduled for Sunday.

Israel launched its strikes one day after the international nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, accused Iran of violating its non-proliferation obligations. Iran rejected the allegations as politically motivated.

Although the US insisted it was not involved, President Donald Trump endorsed the Israeli operation. Russia condemned Israel and called for de-escalation.

Russia condemned Israel's initial strikes on Friday and called for de-escalation. On Saturday, President Vladimir Putin spoke with US President Donald Trump by phone, and the two agreed on the possibility of restarting negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, according to Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov.

16 June 2025

10:28 GMT

Iran's retaliation to the Israeli attack *"was so powerful that it went beyond what even Israeli authorities and US President Donald Trump anticipated,"* a high-ranking officer of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has claimed.

The diversity of munitions deployed by Tehran and their precision *"left the enemy in utter shock,"*

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Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, who serves as IRGC's Deputy Commander for Political Affairs, has said, as cited by Press TV.

Javani blamed the Israeli authorities for trying to conceal the actual scale of casualties and destruction caused by the Iranian strikes. *"Given the operation's massive scope, they have been forced to issue limited reports to their own public,"* he said.

09:46 GMT

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz has issued a statement clarifying his earlier comment that *"residents of Tehran will pay the price"* for Iran's retaliatory strikes against Israel.

"There is no intention to physically harm the residents of Tehran," Katz claimed.

What he meant to say was that the Iranian civilians *"will be forced to bear the cost of the dictatorship and evacuate their homes from areas where it will be necessary to strike regime targets,"* according to the readout.

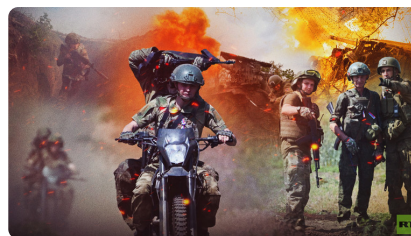
09:03 GMT

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has warned that the conflict between Israel and Iran could affect the entire Middle East region and urged the sides to swiftly de-escalate.

Beijing *"is deeply concerned about Israel's attacks on Iran, which have caused an abrupt escalation of military conflict,"* the ministry's spokesman, Guo Jiakun, said during a briefing.

"We call on the parties to immediately take measures to ease tensions as soon as possible, ... prevent the region from descending into greater turmoil and create conditions for returning to the right track for resolution through dialogue and consultation," he said.

According to Guo, if the conflict *"continues to*



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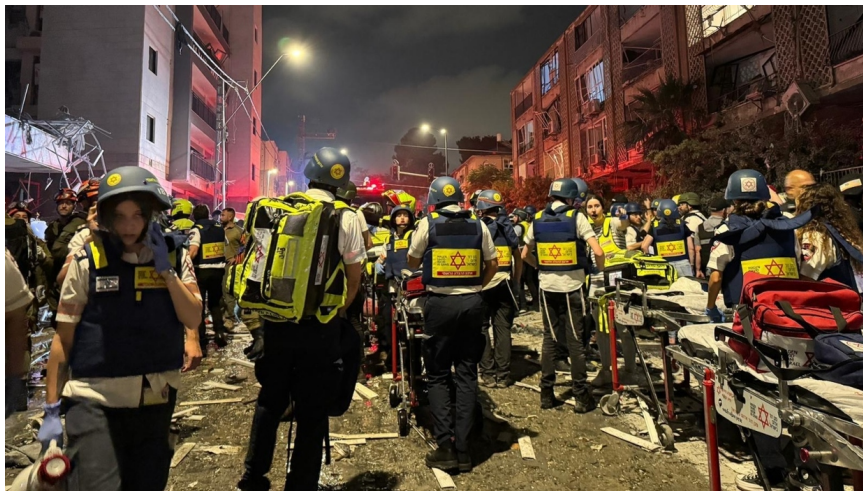
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escalate, or even enlarge, the Middle Eastern countries will be the first to suffer.”

08:17 GMT

The number of fatalities from the overnight Iranian missile strikes on Israel has risen to eight people after Israeli Army Radio said that the three people missing in the city of Haifa have been confirmed dead.

Separately, the Israeli Health Ministry said that 287 people required hospitalization as a result of the latest round of attacks. One person was in serious condition and 14 others sustained moderate injuries, with the rest being lightly wounded or suffering from acute shock, according to the ministry.



Israeli medics working in an area affected by an Iranian missile strike. © X / Magen David Adom

08:00 GMT

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has urged the country's people to unite during the ongoing escalation with Israel.

Speaking to the Iranian parliament on Monday, Pezeshkian insisted that *“today, more than ever, we need solidarity and cohesion. All Iranians must come together and stand firmly against this act of aggression. Whatever differences or problems exist must be set aside now. We must unite and resolutely confront this genocidal criminal aggression.”*

"The enemy cannot remove us or our nation from the scene through violence, killings, and assassinations. For every hero who falls, hundreds more will rise to carry the flag and stand against the oppression, injustice, crimes, and betrayal committed by these aggressors," he stressed.

The president defended Tehran's right to a peaceful nuclear program, saying that *"we stand firm in achieving this right and fear no power in securing what is rightfully ours."*

07:08 GMT

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz, who earlier warned that *"Tehran will burn,"* has again threatened the civilian population of the Iranian capital.

"The arrogant dictator of Tehran has become a scared murderer who fires at Israel's civilian home front in order to deter the IDF from continuing to carry out attacks that are destroying his capabilities," Katz posted on Telegram, apparently referring to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

"The residents of Tehran will pay the price, and soon," he wrote.

The death toll from Israel's attacks on Iran since Friday has reached 224 people, including 70 women and children, according to the country's health ministry.

06:44 GMT

Israel has said that its warplanes struck command centers belonging to the elite Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, as well as the country's military.

According to a map published by the IDF on X, at least ten locations in populated areas in the Iranian capital Tehran had been targeted.

06:20 GMT

The branch of the US embassy in Tel Aviv has sustained *“some minor damage from concussions of [an] Iranian missile”* that struck not far from the compound, according to US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. There were no injuries among the American staff, he added.

The US embassy and consulate in Israel will remain closed on Monday as shelter in place order remains in effect, Huckabee wrote on X.

04:48 GMT

The death toll from Iran’s attacks on Sunday has risen to four, Israeli police said. The victims’ bodies were recovered from the rubble in Bnei Brak and neighboring Petah Tikva, located in the central part of the country.

02:37 GMT

Unverified reports on social media claim that Iranian missiles have struck a power plant near Ramla.

NOW - Iranian missile strikes the Gezer gas power plant, Israel.