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Washington strikes Iranian nuclear sites: What we know so far

US President Donald Trump has announced a "very successful attack" on the Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan facilities

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US President Donald Trump delivers an address to the nation following strikes on Iran. © Carlos Barria

US President Donald Trump has said that Washington carried out a large-scale series of strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities early on Sunday.

The Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan sites were targeted in the "very successful attack," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The US leader later delivered a televised address from the White House, claiming that the Iranian nuclear sites have been *“completely and totally obliterated.”*

He warned Tehran against retaliation, saying that it *“must now make peace,”* otherwise *“future attacks would be far greater.”*

Iran says no contamination at affected sites

The strikes on the Iranian nuclear sites marked the first-ever combat use of the US GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), a 30,000-pound *“bunker-buster”* bomb, which is deployed by B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, the New York Times has reported. Submarine-launched Tomahawk missiles were also used to target the Islamic Republic.

Iran’s Center for the National Nuclear Safety System confirmed the attack, but said that emergency inspections at the affected facilities have found no signs of radioactive contamination or leaks. The International Atomic Energy Agency also said later that no increase in radiation levels has been reported at Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan.

Israel hails Trump’s *“bold decision”*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been urging the US to provide military assistance to his country since the initial attack by Israel on Iran on June 13, praised Trump for his *“bold decision”* to take part in the bombing campaign.

The use of the *“awesome and righteous might of the US”* against the Iranian nuclear sites *“will change history,”* Netanyahu argued. It *“has created a pivot of history that can help lead the Middle East and beyond to a future of prosperity and peace,”* he said.

Tehran vows to ‘resist with all its might’

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has condemned *“the brutal US military aggression against Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities,”* calling it an *“unprecedented”* violation of the UN Charter and international law.

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Tehran *“considers it its right to resist with all its might against US military aggression,”* which was carried out *“with the criminal complicity”* of Israel, the ministry said in a statement. *“The war-mongering and law-breaking US government [is] responsible for the*



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extremely dangerous effects and consequences of this great crime,” it stressed.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said separately that Tehran *“reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, interest, and people.”*

US lawmakers split on bombing

The Democrats attacked Trump for ordering the strikes on Iran without Congressional approval. Senator Bernie Sanders called the move *“grossly unconstitutional,”* while representative Sean Casten described it as an *“unambiguous impeachable offense.”*

House Speaker Mike Johnson defended the president’s unilateral actions, claiming that the *“necessary, limited, and targeted strike follows the history and tradition of similar military actions under presidents of both parties.”* Republican



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representative Robert Brown Aderholt even compared Trump to Winston Churchill.

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The Saudi Foreign Ministry said that it is following the US strikes on Iran *“with concern,”* calling for *“restraint, calm and prevention of escalation.”* Qatar has condemned the attack, warning that it could lead to *“catastrophic consequences”* for the region and on a global scale. Oman also criticized Washington for what it called *“an illegal aggression.”*

Gulf states condemn US attack

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