

Situation Report | “Rising Lions”, Israel-Iran War
Day 5 | Updated June 17th, 2025 14:00PM (Israeli Standard Time GMT+3)

David Institute for Policy and Strategy | IDSF

Rising Lion

Israel on a War to Remove an Existential Nuclear and Missile Threat by Iran

Updated June 17, 2025 | 12:00PM GMT +3



Missiles, Rockets, and Drones Launched at Israel

● Injured 452 ● Fatalities 24



24 Israeli Fatalities

+452 Israeli Injured

+33 Direct Hits on Israeli buildings

410

150

Ballistic Missiles

Drones Total



Missiles Launched From Iran



Facility hit in Iran



Iranian General Hit



IAF fighterjet

Situation Report | “Operation Rising Lion” – The Israel-Iran War

Day 5 | Updated June 17th, 2025 14:00PM (Israeli Standard Time GMT+3)

Operational Clock War: Starting +105Hrs.

[2nd report issued](#) at +55Hrs.

[3rd report issued](#) at +83Hrs

For real-time updates [click here](#)

Military Developments

Israeli Operations

Key Points:

- **Israel** launched a **comprehensive offensive** on **June 16, 2025**, targeting **Iranian missile sites, air defenses, and command centers**, crippling Iran’s military capabilities.
- **Over 120 ballistic missile launchers** (an estimated one-third of Iran’s total) and **20 IRGC facilities** were destroyed. **Senior officials** like **Brig. Gen. Mohammad Kazemi** and **Maj. Gen. Ali Shadmani** were killed, further disrupting Iran’s leadership.
- **Israeli air superiority** ensures **near-uncontested skies**, with operations expanding eastward and potentially to Iran’s **southern coastline**, targeting naval and oil assets.
- **Oil refineries and gas depots** south of **Tehran** were hit, causing **logistical bottlenecks** and intensifying **economic pressure** by disrupting fuel supplies.
- **Israel** justified **Operation Rising Lion**, claiming that Iran was nearing a **nuclear point of no return**, seemed to be contradicted by **U.S. intelligence** estimates which concluded that Iran is still **three years away** from achieving a nuclear weapon, with strikes only causing a **few months’ delay**.
- **An Israeli airstrike in Iran targeted a secret command center used by the Iranian military’s top brass. It was used as the main military emergency headquarters.**

Personnel Eliminated

- Among the most significant outcomes, the **IDF** confirmed the **elimination of senior Iranian intelligence officials**, including **IRGC intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Kazemi**, his deputy **Hassan Mohaqiq**, the heads of **Quds Force intelligence**, and **Maj. Gen. Ali Shadmani**, a senior military commander. These **targeted killings** have significantly weakened Iran’s military leadership, disrupting command and control structures.

Reports indicate that **Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei** has been relocated to a **secure bunker in northeastern Tehran** as a precautionary measure against further Israeli strikes. **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has openly stated that targeting **Khamenei** remains a possibility.

Overview

- Since **June 16, 2025**, **Israel** has launched a **comprehensive offensive** against **Iran**. The **Israeli Air Force (IAF)** has systematically targeted **Iranian air defense systems** and **ballistic missile sites**, beginning in western Iran and progressively expanding operations to central regions, including **Tehran** and **Isfahan**. Described by the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** as a **gradual breach from west to east**, this campaign has **neutralized over 120 ballistic missile launchers**—approximately one-third of Iran’s total capacity—and destroyed **surface-to-air missile convoys**, including a truck traveling between **Tehran** and **Qom**.
- Over **20 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** and military command centers have been struck, with **Israeli drones** conducting **deep surveillance** into Iranian airspace, providing critical intelligence for further strikes.
- The IAF has also destroyed **two Iranian F-14 jets** on the ground and targeted **oil refineries** and **gas depots** south of **Tehran**, aiming to disrupt **regime logistics** and **civilian energy supplies**.
- These attacks have caused **logistical bottlenecks**, exacerbating **economic pressure** within Iran by limiting fuel availability and disrupting supply chains critical to both military and civilian sectors.
- **Maj. Gen. Shlomi Binder**, Commander of the IDF Intelligence Corps, emphasized the IDF’s commitment to **neutralizing Iran’s missile threat** and **degrading its nuclear infrastructure** until the **existential danger** to Israel is eliminated. He suggested that the Israeli intelligence still has more “surprises” down the road.

Iranian Attacks

Key Points:

- **Iran** launched **ballistic missiles** and **drones**, targeting **Haifa**, **Tel Aviv**, **Herzliya** injuring 5 civilians, and other **strategic assets**, with a missile hitting the **Bazan oil refinery in Haifa**, killing three.
- **24 Israelis** killed and **2,000 displaced** since **Friday’s barrage**, with significant impact in **Petah Tikva** and **Tel Aviv**, where hundreds are now homeless.

- **Israel's air defense systems** have intercepted most attacks, but **Iran's diminished launchers** still pose an **acute threat**, as some projectiles evade interception.
- **Israel's advanced air defense systems, including the Arrow and David's Sling, have intercepted most incoming threats**, but some missiles and drones have penetrated, underscoring the acute danger to Israeli population centers. The destruction of many Iranian launchers by Israeli strikes has significantly diminished Iran's capacity to conduct large-scale barrages, but the remaining launchers and drones continue to pose a persistent threat, requiring constant vigilance from Israel's defense forces.

Inside Iran

Key Points:

- **Millions flee Tehran** amid **fuel shortages, gridlocked highways, and internet blackouts**, with **public services** paralyzed and **14 arrested** for **"pro-Israel" social media posts**.
- **Israeli airstrikes** hit **IRIB state TV** during a live broadcast, killing **three**, while Israeli-linked hacker group **Gonjeshke Darande's (Predatory Sparrow)** **cyberattack** on **Bank Sepah** disrupted **banking services** and crashed the **rial** from **840,000 to 955,000** against the **USD**, limiting **IRGC funding**. **Bank Sepah had been used primary by Iranian security personnel**. The attack disrupted online banking services, including **ATM withdrawals, and reportedly destroyed critical financial data**, severely hampering the bank's operations. Iran's Fars News Agency acknowledged the disruption.
- **Iranian hackers** infiltrated **Israeli Kan 11**, inserting **propaganda**, while **Israeli messaging and opposition media** fuel **regime change** calls.
- On June 17, 2025, the **reformist newspaper Shargh** published a statement urging a cessation of hostilities, citing national security concerns and the over 220 civilian deaths caused by the conflict. This reflects growing elite concern over economic strain and regime stability, as public frustration mounts over civilian casualties and infrastructure damage.
- The war has triggered widespread civilian anxiety and severe economic disruption within Iran, profoundly impacting daily life. **Central Tehran and the Grand Bazaar have emptied, with millions fleeing the capital** amid traffic jams and acute fuel shortages. Gas stations across the country are dry, and northern highways are gridlocked, paralyzing public services and stranding residents.
- The Iranian regime has imposed **internet blackouts to control information flow and arrested 14 individuals for posting "pro-Israel" content on social media**, signaling desperate efforts to suppress dissent and maintain public order.

- Opposition and diaspora media have capitalized on these events, amplifying calls for regime change and highlighting signs of government fragility. Israeli messaging campaigns have reached millions of Iranians, bypassing regime censorship and fueling internal unrest.

Geopolitical Reactions

Key Points:

- **President Donald Trump** has taken a hardline stance, rejecting **ceasefire calls** and demanding a **definitive end** to **Iran's nuclear ambitions**. On **June 17, 2025**, **Trump** dismissed reports of **peace talks** as “**fake news**”, praising **Israel's strikes** as “**very successful**” and warning **Iran** to **agree to a deal** or face further destruction, stating, “**You better agree before there is nothing left.**” In a **Truth Social** post, he emphasized that **Iran is weakened**, its **leadership in chaos**, and its **military battered**, insisting on **no talks** until Iran ends its “**nuclear nonsense.**” This marks a shift from his **June 13, 2025**, optimism about resuming nuclear negotiations, aligning now with **Israel's escalation**.
- The **U.S.** has bolstered its military presence in the region, with the **USS Nimitz**, previously stationed in the **Pacific Fleet's homeport of Bremerton, Washington**, redeployed toward the **Middle East** to join the **USS Carl Vinson**, already positioned in the **Persian Gulf**. Additional U.S. assets, including **B-52 bombers** and **F-22 stealth fighters**, have been repositioned to bases in **Qatar** and the **United Arab Emirates**, signaling a show of force despite official denials of direct U.S. military involvement.
- **Tulsi Gabbard**, the **isolationist Director of National Intelligence (DNI)**, has **downplayed the Iranian threat**, arguing against U.S. military action in Iran, which creates tension with **Israel** and more hawkish elements in the **Trump administration**.
- **Iran** has sought a **ceasefire** through diplomatic channels, contacting **Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia** to convey messages to **Trump**. On **June 17, 2025**, **Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi** stated that **Iran “has no interest in further bloodshed”** but would “**proudly fight to the last drop of blood**” to defend its **land, people, and dignity**, reflecting a dual approach of defiance and openness to de-escalation. **Iran's UN envoy, Amir Saeid Iravani**, requested an **emergency UN Security Council session**, condemning **Israeli strikes** as “**state terrorism**” and a “**flagrant violation of international law,**” urging **global condemnation** to halt **Israel's actions**.
- **Russia, China, and Pakistan** support **Iran**, with **Pakistan** supplying **missile guidance kits** and **Houthis** attacking **Israeli ports**, driving **oil price surges** and threatening the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- **Iran** has threatened to strike **British and French bases** in the region if they assist **Israel**, escalating tensions with Western powers.

- **Prime Minister Netanyahu gave interviews to ABC and Fox News framing the conflict with Iran as a shared battle for Israel and the United States, emphasizing that Iran's aggression threatens American cities and Western civilization.** He said that Iran is interested in America's destruction with chants of **"Death to America"** and **two assassination attempts against President Donald Trump and other senior officials in the American government.** He said that Iran was planning on engineering an ICMB capable of reaching American cities. He said, **"Today, it's Tel Aviv. Tomorrow, it's New York.** Look, I understand 'America First'. I don't understand 'America Dead'. That's what these people want. They chant 'Death to America.' So, we're doing something that is in the service of mankind, of humanity, and it's a battle of good against evil. America does, should, and does stand with the good. That's what President Trump is doing, and I deeply appreciate his support".

Projections

Key Points:

- **Home Front Command on high alert, issuing missile alerts, orchestrating evacuations, and providing emergency shelters to displaced civilians in cities like Haifa and Tel Aviv.**
- **War may last months, with emergency protocols and mental health services fully mobilized to support resilience amid threats to daily life.**

Assessment: The conflict risks regional spillover, particularly if U.S./European assets are targeted. Civilian casualties and critical infrastructure damage are mounting, with no near-term de-escalation likely. However, meaningful strikes by the United States can lead to a quick cessation of hostilities, as B-2 Stealth Bombers have the capacity to efficiently and more rapidly strike underground nuclear facilities, leading to their full dismantlement.



June 16th attacks: Strike on two F-14 fighter jets that were located at an airport in Tehran. |
Credit: IDF Spokesperson



Debris from Iranian missiles in Nablus, Salfit and Tulkarem |
Credit: Telegram Chanel “Abu Ali Express”



Trump's Truth Social Post | Credit: Truth Social



ATM of a Bank serving Iranian Security forces have stopped working |
Credit: Iran News on Telegram



Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson demanding a condemnation against Israel after reacting to the G7 statement | Credit: Iran News on Telegram