

## Iran and Israel continue to exchange airstrikes

16th June 2025



The conflict between Israel and Iran is escalating as the two nations exchange waves of ballistic missile attacks. This latest crisis in the Middle East comes after Israel launched its biggest ever airstrikes against Iran on Saturday. It destroyed Iranian

military targets and missile launchers. It also killed the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards, plus senior military figures and nine nuclear scientists. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country's operation was to "thwart the Islamic regime's nuclear and ballistic missile threat". Israel's military actions came a day after the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran was "in breach of its [nuclear] non-proliferation obligations".

Iran's capital city Tehran was bombed for the first time since the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused Israel of initiating a war. He said: "Our response will not be half-hearted". Iran said Israel would pay a "heavy price" for its attacks. However, the Israeli military reported Iran fired fewer than 100 missiles. It said most of these were either intercepted or fell short. Netanyahu has spoken directly to the Iranian people. He told them: "We are clearing the path for you to achieve your freedom. The regime does not know what will hit it. It has never been weaker. This is your opportunity to stand up and let your voices be heard."

Sources: [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com) / [timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)

### Writing

All nuclear-armed countries should destroy their nuclear weapons. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

conflict / Israel / Iran / crisis / missiles / military / scientist / non-proliferation / threat / capital city / war / response / a heavy price / freedom / regime / opportunity / voices

### True / False

- 1) The article says the attacks between Iran and Israel are lessening. T / F
- 2) The article says Israel destroyed most of Iran's missile launchers. T / F
- 3) Israeli airstrikes killed many nuclear scientists. T / F
- 4) The IAEA said Iran had not followed its nuclear non-proliferation duties. T / F
- 5) Iran's capital hasn't been bombed since the Iran-Iraq War. T / F
- 6) Iran fired more than 100 missiles at Israel on Friday. T / F
- 7) Most of the missiles Iran launched failed to hit their target. T / F
- 8) Israel's leader asked the Iranian people to stand up. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>conflict</b>     | a. starting   |
| 2. <b>crisis</b>       | b. government |
| 3. <b>thwart</b>       | c. blamed     |
| 4. <b>regime</b>       | d. stopped    |
| 5. <b>obligations</b>  | e. emergency  |
| 6. <b>accused</b>      | f. chance     |
| 7. <b>initiating</b>   | g. war        |
| 8. <b>intercepted</b>  | h. liberty    |
| 9. <b>freedom</b>      | i. derail     |
| 10. <b>opportunity</b> | j. duties     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How serious do you think this conflict is?
- c) What has your country's leader said about this conflict?
- d) Where do you see this conflict going?
- e) How can this crisis be resolved?
- f) Why did Benjamin Netanyahu address the Iranian people?
- g) What do you know about Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the leaders of Iran and Israel?

## Phrase Match

1. The conflict between Israel and Iran
  2. military targets and missile
  3. senior military
  4. thwart the Islamic regime's nuclear and
  5. in breach of its nuclear non-
  6. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused Israel
  7. most of these were either intercepted
  8. We are clearing the path for you
  9. The regime does not know
  10. stand up and let
- a. ballistic missile threat
  - b. to achieve your freedom
  - c. proliferation obligations
  - d. what will hit it
  - e. figures
  - f. your voices be heard
  - g. is escalating
  - h. or fell short
  - i. launchers
  - j. of initiating a war

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of the latest crisis?
- b) What pictures have you seen of the conflict?
- c) Why are relations between the two countries so bad?
- d) What other countries could be drawn into this crisis?
- e) How bad could this conflict become?
- f) What do you think of countries having nuclear weapons?
- g) What do you know about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu?
- h) What advice do you have for the leaders of Iran and Israel?

## Spelling

1. waves of ilslatbic missile attacks
2. Iranian iyiltram targets
3. nine nuclear tistnsseci
4. thwart the Islamic igreme
5. Iran was in bcarhe
6. its nuclear non-proliferation otibansogli
7. Ayatollah Khamenei has csdcuea Israel
8. itgnniita a war
9. Our eessonrp will not be half-hearted
10. these were either deeetrpnic or fell short
11. the path for you to iecvaha your freedom
12. your pinrutyopot to stand up

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. d	9. h	10. f

## Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.  
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What does the article say Iran and Israel are exchanging?
2.	What did Israel's airstrikes destroy besides military targets?
3.	How many nuclear scientists died in the airstrikes?
4.	Who said he wanted to thwart Iran's ballistic missile threat?
5.	What was Iran accused of being in breach of?
6.	When was the last time Tehran was bombed, prior to Friday's attack?
7.	What did Iran say Israel would have to pay for the attacks?
8.	What happened to the missiles Iran fired at Israel?
9.	What did Benjamin Netanyahu say Israel is clearing a path for?
10.	What did Benjamin Netanyahu tell the Iranian people to do?

## Speaking – Peace

Rank these with your partner. Put the best person/party who can bring Middle East peace at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Benjamin Netanyahu
- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
- President Donald Trump
- President Xi Jinping
- The United Nations
- The Arab League
- The European Union
- The Crisis Group

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.