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## Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update April 15, 2024

JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing conflict between Israel, the Iranian regime, and the regime's proxies. JINSA will release the Swords of Iron Update on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

### Analysis

- On April 13-14, the Iranian regime launched an unprecedented strike against Israel, both in terms of scale and as Tehran's first-ever direct attack against Israeli territory. As General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC (ret.), the former commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and JINSA's Hertog Distinguished Fellow, argued in [The Wall Street Journal](#), "the attack Sunday morning was poorly executed and a strategic miscalculation. The vulnerability of Iran's force has been exposed, and the regime is gravely weakened as a result. Israel has been strengthened by a stunning display of military competence, a striking contrast with that seen on Oct. 7."
  - » McKenzie explained, "another factor is that Lebanese Hezbollah's involvement was minimal, limited to tactical rocketing into the Golan Heights. This is of enormous strategic significance. The scenario Israeli planners feared most was the 'dual axis' missile and drone attack, in which thousands of missiles from Lebanon joined the attackers from Iran."
  - » McKenzie further noted that "some are calling for Israel to destroy the Iranian nuclear enterprise. Now isn't the time for that. What's needed is a carefully calibrated response on a scale that reinforces Israeli technical mastery. That would reset deterrence."
- Considering President Biden [reportedly](#) told Prime Minister Netanyahu after Iran's largely unsuccessful attack against Israel, "You got a win. Take the win," JINSA's Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel argued in a [NatSec Brief about the Iranian attack](#), "despite concerted and commendable combined efforts by Israel, the United States, Arab partners, and others to render the massive barrage of over 300 drones and missiles largely ineffective, and despite Iran quickly signaling its desire to avoid further escalation, Tehran will only be encouraged to conduct further large-scale and potentially devastating attacks if American officials treat this as a one-off success for Israel's self-defense."
  - » Instead, they recommended that the United States publicly support the ability of Israel and its other regional partners to respond against such provocative aggression. This

should include providing Israel with military capabilities that bolster its deterrence and strengthening U.S.-led efforts on integrated regional air and missile defense.

- During a JINSA [webinar](#) on April 12, LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), a JINSA distinguished fellow, argued that the strike against the World Central Kitchen aid workers is “garnering the attention it is because there’s this expectation that a military as competent and capable as the [IDF] should be error-free ... that there should be perfection in war. And that’s just not realistic.”
  - » MAJ John Spencer, USA (ret.) noted that “a non-state actor [in Gaza] basically built an entire operating environment of up to 400 miles of tunnels ... under civilian sites ... with the sole intention of using them to achieve their goals ... [there’s] nothing like this [elsewhere in the world] where [tunnels are] solely built for the objective of causing civilian harm and making it so difficult for the IDF to move forward.”

## Last 72 Hours

### *Attacks Against Israel*

- At least 15,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel from all fronts combined during the war, according to JINSA data.

### **Iranian Regime**

- On April 13-14, the Iranian regime and its proxies launched [mass barrages](#) totaling over 300 projectiles, including approximately 170 one-way attack drones, 120 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles (SSM), and 30 land-attack cruise missiles (LACM) at Israel, primarily from Iranian territory with additional projectile attacks launched from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen.
  - » Sirens sounded in towns in [northern](#) Israel, [Jerusalem](#), the West Bank, and [southern Israel](#), including Beersheba, Dimona, Nevatim.
  - » The projectiles combined to carry [60 tons of explosives](#).
  - » The unprecedented attack was in response to an April 1 [airstrike](#), attributed to Israel, on an Iranian consulate facility in Damascus that killed seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officers, including Mohamad Reza Zahedi, who oversaw Iran’s proxy group activities in Lebanon and Syria.
  - » The attack lightly damaged Israel’s Nevatim airbase in the Negev, home to Israel’s advanced F-35 stealth fighter aircraft, and caused approximately twelve injuries, including [critically wounding](#) a seven-year-old girl.
  - » An [article](#) in the Iranian regime state-run *Iranian Students’ News Agency* (ISNA) claimed that the attack targeted the Nevatim air base and a military facility on Mount Hermon.
    - The column claimed that “Israeli cities were not supposed to be targeted in this operation, although Israeli citizens experienced the worst night of their lives.”
    - It further claimed that “Iran’s missiles hit the predetermined targets. However, Israel is trying to downplay the damage of this attack.”
    - The article argued that “this operation raised the deterrence level of the Islamic Republic of Iran and even the repeated calls of Western officials to dissuade Iran from responding to Israel were useless.”

- » Israel shot down the vast majority of the projectiles and with support from the United States, the United Kingdom, Jordan, France, and other partners intercepted roughly [99 percent](#) of the incoming threats.
  - U.S. aircraft [shot down](#) more than 70 drones and cruise missiles, U.S. destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean Sea intercepted between four and six ballistic missiles, and a U.S. Patriot missile battery in Iraq shot down one more, according to a senior U.S. military official.
  - All of the interceptions took place outside of Israel’s airspace, according to the IDF Spokesperson. The United States and regional partners, including Saudi Arabia, also provided early warning assistance to Israel. No drones or cruise missiles [reached](#) Israeli territory.



Source: [The Washington Post](#)

- » During an interview with *Sky News*, Israel’s President Isaac Herzog [stated](#), “this is a declaration of war. He added, “now, because we are restrained and because we know the repercussions, and because we have deliberations with our partners, we are considering all options and I’m quite confident that we will take the necessary steps to protect and defend our people. We are not war seekers.”
- » On April 14, Prime Minister Netanyahu [posted](#) on X, “We intercepted. We blocked. Together we will win.”
- » At a press conference on April 14, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian [claimed](#) that “about 72 hours prior to our operations, we informed our friends and neighbors in the region that Iran’s response against Israel was certain, legitimate, and irrevocable.”

- » On April 13, while missiles and drones were still in the air, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran [posted](#) on X, “conducted on the strength of Article 51 of the UN Charter pertaining to legitimate defense, Iran’s military action was in response to the Zionist regime’s aggression against our diplomatic premises in Damascus. The matter can be deemed concluded. However, should the Israeli regime make another mistake, Iran’s response will be considerably more severe. It is a conflict between Iran and the rogue Israeli regime, from which the U.S. MUST STAY AWAY!”

## Gaza

- Hamas [said](#) in a statement on April 14, “we in Hamas regard the military operation [against Israel] conducted by the Islamic Republic of Iran a natural right and a deserved response on [sic] the crime of targeting the Iranian consulate in Damascus and the assassination of several leaders of the Revolutionary Guards.”
- On April 12, senior Hamas official Khaled Meshaal [said](#) in Doha, Qatar, that the war in Gaza will “break the enemy soon,” and “this is not the final round.” He added, “it is an important round on the path of liberating Palestine and defeating the Zionist project.”
- On April 12, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operatives [launched](#) several rockets from Gaza toward the southern Israeli city of Sderot. The IDF said three rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome system. No injuries were reported.

## Lebanon

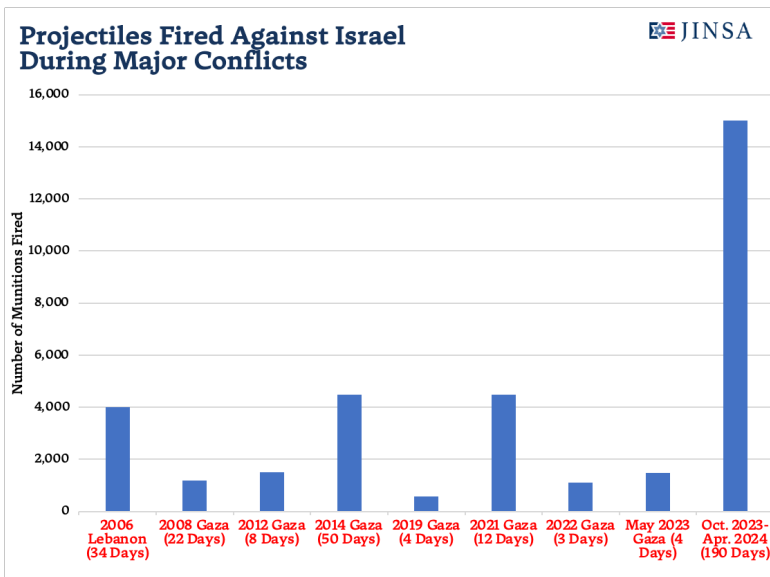
- Sirens sounded in communities in the Western Galilee.
- Hezbollah claimed responsibility for an explosion overnight on April 15 that wounded four IDF troops on the Lebanese border, saying it had placed several explosive devices along the border.
- On April 13, a member of the local security team in Hanita was seriously wounded in a Hezbollah one-way drone attack.
- On April 13, Hezbollah fired a drone rigged with explosives into Israel, which impacted an area near Kfar Blum, causing no injuries, and terrorists in Lebanon fired numerous rockets toward the Western Galilee region, according to the IDF.
- On April 12, the IDF said Hezbollah launched a barrage of 40 rockets at northern Israel, some of which were intercepted while others either impacted in open areas or fell short in Lebanon. No injuries were reported.
  - » The IDF said its air defenses also shot down two one-way attack drones.

## Iraq

- Overnight on April 15, Israeli aircraft [shot down](#) a projectile heading toward Israel from the east, possibly from Iraq.

## Red Sea

- The IDF [said](#) on April 14 that a “suspicious aerial target,” likely a drone fired from Yemen, crossed into Israeli airspace and was intercepted by an Iron Dome system on an Israeli Navy Sa’ar 6-class corvette.



### *IDF Operations*

#### **Iranian Regime**

- During a tour on April 14 of an Israeli Arrow 3 air defense system alongside U.S. Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [argued](#), “together with the U.S. and other countries, we have established a strong and powerful alliance, with coordination and synchronization between the defense establishments of the State of Israel, the US and our partners. The result is a complete containment of the threats except for a very, very small margin, and I want to say in this regard, kudos to the defense establishment, kudos to the IDF, and kudos to our partners.”
  - » He added, “we have an opportunity here to establish a strategic alliance against this serious threat from Iran, which threatens to put nuclear explosives on the heads of these missiles. This thing could be a very serious threat. The US, Israel and its allies stand shoulder to shoulder to defend against this threat.”
- On April 14, Israel’s Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [stated](#) that Israel must strengthen the “strategic alliance and the regional cooperation” that helped Israel intercept the Iranian regime’s missile and drone attack.
  - » Gantz noted that “Iran is a global problem, it is a regional challenge and it is also a danger to Israel, and yesterday, the world clearly stood together with Israel in the face of the danger. Israel against Iran, the world against Iran—this is the result. This is a strategic achievement, which we must leverage for Israel’s security.”
  - » He added, “this event is not over—the strategic alliance and the regional cooperation system that we built and stood its significant test need to be strengthened precisely now. Israel proved yesterday that it is an anchor of military and technological power, and an anchor of security in the Middle East.”
  - » Gantz suggested that “faced with the threat of Iran—we will build a regional coalition and exact the price from Iran, in the way and at the time that suits us. And most importantly—in the face of the desire of our enemies to harm us, we will unite and become stronger.”

- On April 13, “Israel’s potential retaliatory strike that had been proposed by some members of the cabinet was suspended after PM Netanyahu spoke by phone with President Biden and because the strikes had caused relatively minor damage,” according to *The New York Times*’s [Ronen Bergman](#).
- On April 12, before Iran’s April 13-14 massive projectile attack against Israel, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi [said](#), “the IDF is well prepared in attack and defense against any threat. We are at war and have been on high alert for about six months. The IDF continues to closely monitor what is happening in Iran and in the various arenas, while constantly preparing to deal with existing and potential threats in coordination with the United States armed forces.”

## Gaza

- On April 15, the IDF indicated that its forces [continued](#) operations at the outskirts of the Nuseirat camp in Gaza and that IDF soldiers had killed roughly 15 gunmen in the Netzarim corridor over the past day.
- On April 14, the IDF [denied](#) rumors that Gazans are now permitted to return to northern Gaza, saying in a statement that “reports that IDF forces are allowing the return of residents to the north of the Gaza Strip [are] false reports.”
  - » The IDF further noted that “the northern area of the Gaza Strip is still a combat zone and it will not be possible to return to it.”
  - » According to an April 15 [report](#) from Israel’s *Channel 12* citing local Palestinian sources, Hamas is responsible for spreading false rumors that women and children under the age of 14 are allowed to return to northern Gaza.
- On April 14, the IDF [continued](#) precision operations against Hamas in central Gaza.
  - » The IDF said that day that combat engineers built bridges over the Wadi Gaza river to enable tanks to travel over the river, and that the 401st Armored Brigade used the bridge to conduct operations against several Hamas sites.
  - » According to the IDF, soldiers from the 162nd Division operated on the outskirts of the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, locating and eliminating rocket launchers that were readied for projectile attacks against Israel.
- On April 14, the IDF [announced](#) that it had called up two unspecified reserve brigades for “operational missions” in Gaza.
- On April 13, the IDF [said](#) it struck over 30 targets across Gaza over the prior 24 hours using fighter jets and drones, including anti-tank missile launchers and three rocket launchers each loaded with 20 rockets that were readied for attacks against Israel.
- On April 13, the IDF’s 401st Armored Brigade and Nahal Infantry Brigade [continued](#) operations against Hamas targets on the outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. Troops eliminated several terror operatives and destroyed terrorist facilities, including a Hamas weapons depot.
- On April 13, the IDF [announced](#) that troops from the Gaza Division’s Northern Brigade were conducting a precision operation in the Beit Hanoun area of northern Gaza. During the operation, troops located a group of gunmen and called in an airstrike to eliminate the gunmen.
- On April 13, the IDF [conducted](#) artillery shelling against a PIJ launch site used to conduct an earlier projectile attack against Israel.

## Lebanon

- On April 15, the IDF said it [conducted](#) airstrikes against several Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon overnight, including rocket launcher posts and other terror infrastructure in the towns of Ayta ash-Shab, Labbouneh, Matmoura, and Seddiqine.
  - » Troops also conducted artillery shelling against areas near Ayta ash-Shab to remove other unspecified threats.
- On April 14, Lebanese reports [said](#) that Israel launched airstrikes in the area of Nabi Chit in northern Lebanon's Baalbek District. The IDF [said](#) later that day that it struck a "significant [Hezbollah] weapons manufacturing site."
- The IDF [said](#) on April 14 that it targeted infrastructure located in southern Lebanon's Jbaa used by Hezbollah's elite Radwan force, as well as other targets affiliated with the group in Khiam and Kafr Kila.
- On April 14, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted Hezbollah buildings in Kafr Kila, Maroun al-Ras, Markaba, and Matmoura in southern Lebanon.
- The IDF [said](#) on April 13 that it launched strikes using fighter jets and artillery against Hezbollah targets in Kharayeb, Wardiyeh, and Khilat al-Daba in southern Lebanon, responding to an earlier drone attack from Lebanon which seriously injured one in Israel. Later that night, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted other Hezbollah infrastructure in Tayr Harfa, Aalma ash-Shab, and Yarine.
- On April 13, the IDF [said](#) that it struck Hezbollah assets in Houla, Bayt Lif, Odaisseh, and Taybeh, and also fired toward the Rmeish region to neutralize a threat. The IDF added that it is looking into a suspected drone infiltration earlier that triggered sirens.
- On April 12, the IDF [said](#) it struck several buildings used by Hezbollah and where its operatives were gathered in Ayta ash-Shab in southern Lebanon. The IDF said it also struck a Hezbollah building in Taybeh and launch sites from which Hezbollah had fired several projectiles at the Upper Galilee earlier in the day.

## West Bank

- On April 15, Israel Border Police officers shot and killed a Palestinian man who allegedly [threw](#) an explosive device at forces during a raid in the city of Nablus. Another terror suspect was located and detained by security forces.
  - » Two other individuals were shot during the operation, including an individual who participated in riots against security forces and another person who drove directly at forces and disregarded warnings to stop.

## Humanitarian Efforts

- According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to April 12, there have been 428,710 tons of humanitarian aid that entered Gaza on 22,763 trucks.
- On April 15, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [told](#) reporters that Israel has begun meeting what the White House argued were its humanitarian commitments in terms of allowing more aid into Gaza but that more work needs to be done.
- Kirby [said](#) in an interview with *MSNBC* on April 15, "the aid has increased and quite dramatically in just the last few days," and "that's important but it has to be sustained."

- On April 12, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric [claimed](#), “our colleagues from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs tell us that we had planned two humanitarian missions to northern Gaza today, but both were denied access by Israeli authorities.”
  - » Dujarric specified that “one of the missions was meant to deliver 20,000 liters of fuel to run backup power generators at Al-Ahli Hospital where medical personnel are still working to provide essential healthcare despite having no electricity.”
    - He stated, “OCHA reports that within the past week, more than 40% of aid missions to northern Gaza were denied or impeded, including due to hostilities nearby.”
  - » Dujarric also indicated that “humanitarian missions planned for areas south of Wadi Gaza were also denied access. Only one mission that required coordination was facilitated today by the Israeli authorities and that mission provided health support to civilians in Khan Younis.”
- On April 12, outgoing UN humanitarian coordinator Jamie McGoldrick [told](#) reporters that “if we have a serious security incident, we don’t have a hotline.”
  - » He argued, “the IDF have never worked with humanitarian organizers before in this type of environment. They don’t understand how we function, they don’t understand our language and what our purpose is. And we don’t understand their expectations.”
    - He further noted, “there’s a degree of mistrust and misunderstanding that we have to address,” but that “we want to work with them differently.”

#### *Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations*

- On April 14, Hamas [presented](#) mediators with a ceasefire and hostage release plan that included a permanent ceasefire in Gaza to occur over three six-week phases. Under the terms of the deal, a six-week ceasefire would occur before Hamas would release any of the remaining hostages. The plan would require that Israel release 30 Palestinian prisoners for every Israeli civilian—an increase from the 3:1 ratio during the November pause in combat—and 50 Palestinian prisoners, with 30 of them serving life sentences, for every captive soldier that Hamas releases.
- On April 14, Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency and the office of Prime Minister Netanyahu [issued](#) a joint statement stating that Hamas rejected the latest proposal in negotiations, and which also accused Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar of being “not interested” in a deal.
  - » According to the statement, “the rejection of the proposal from the three mediators, which included significantly greater room for flexibility on the Israeli side, proves that [Hamas leader Yahya] Sinwar is not interested in a humanitarian deal and in the return of the hostages, and continues to take advantage of tensions with Iran to try to unite the theaters and to achieve a general escalation in the region.”
  - » The statement also noted that Israel will continue working to “turn over every stone” to free the hostages from captivity as soon as possible.

#### *Casualties and Hostages*

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
  - » 604 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
    - 260 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.



- As of March 15, 1,480 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including 310 who have been severely injured.
- » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 34 [American nationals](#), 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 19 [Russian](#) nationals, 12 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 9 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 6 [Canadian](#) nationals, 4 [Philippines](#) nationals, 4 [Austrian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Peruvian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, an [Australian](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, a [Honduran](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Tanzanian](#) national, and a [Turkish](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, 33,797 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 76,371 have been [injured](#) during the war.
  - » On October 25, 2023, President Biden [cautioned](#) against trusting Gaza Health Ministry casualty figures, stating: “I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed ... I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using.”
  - » On March 21, Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) [said](#) that during a virtual meeting that day with Senate Republicans, Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu assessed that the number of people killed in Gaza was approximately 28,000.
  - » Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) on March 10 that Israel has killed approximately 13,000 Hamas operatives over the course of the war.
- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, 464 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 4,800 have been wounded in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- So far, [105](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [three](#) have been rescued by the IDF, [eight](#) have been [found dead](#), three have been [mistakenly](#) killed by the IDF, and one was [killed](#) during an IDF attempt to rescue him.
  - » 81 Israeli hostages have been released.
  - » 46 hostages with foreign nationalities—some also holding Israeli citizenship—have been released.
    - Thus far, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 5 [German nationals](#), 3 [French](#) nationals, 4 [Russian nationals](#), 1 [Dutch](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), 1 [Mexican](#) national, 1 [Uruguayan](#) national, and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
    - Hamas has released [36 children](#) and still holds two as hostages.
  - » Israel has said that terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) 134 hostages and deceased hostage bodies.
  - » Israeli officials have confirmed the [deaths](#) of at least [35](#) of the 134 hostages captured on October 7, as well as two additional hostages who were abducted prior to October 7.
- Many of the hostages are foreign or dual nationals, including up to 5 [American](#) nationals, 6 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals.

### *Iranian Involvement and Response*

- On April 15, Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani [argued](#), “instead of making accusations against Iran, [Western] countries should blame themselves and answer to public opinion for the measures they have taken against the ... war crimes committed by Israel.” He added that Western nations “should appreciate Iran’s restraint in recent months.”
- On April 14, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian [posted](#) on X, “exercising the right of legitimate defense shows Iran’s responsible approach to regional and international peace and security. At this point, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention of continuing defensive operations, but if necessary, it will not hesitate to protect its legitimate interests against any new aggression.”
- On April 14, Iran’s foreign ministry released a [statement](#) that “Iran, if necessary, will not hesitate to take further defensive measures to safeguard its legitimate interests against any military aggressions and unlawful use of force.”
- On April 14, Iran’s foreign ministry [summoned](#) the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany because of what it called their “irresponsible stance” over the Iranian regime’s attack against Israel.
- After the attack on April 13, IRGC Commander Hossein Salami [claimed](#), “we have decided to create a new equation, which is that if from now on the Zionist regime attacks our interests, assets, personalities, and citizens, anywhere and at any point we will retaliate against them;” the IRGC also [cautioned](#), “any threat by the United States and the Zionist regime will result in a proportional and reciprocal response from Iran.”
- Before the Iranian regime’s projectile attack against Israel, IRGC Navy forces [seized](#) the *MSC Ariès*, a Portuguese-flagged container ship that belonged to Zodiac Maritime, which is owned by an Israeli, Eyal Ofer.

### *U.S. and International Response*

- On April 14, President Biden held a call with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) to discuss the Iranian regime’s attack against Israel. During the call, Biden “discussed the urgent need for the House to pass the national security supplemental as soon as possible,” according to a White House [statement](#).
- On April 14, the leaders of the G7 countries, which include the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom, issued a [statement](#) that they “unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms Iran’s direct and unprecedented attack against Israel. Iran fired hundreds of drones and missiles towards Israel. Israel, with the help of its partners, defeated the attack. We express our full solidarity and support to Israel and its people and reaffirm our commitment towards its security.”
- On April 14, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [stated](#) on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that “Israel demonstrated again, as I said, that they’re not standing alone, that they have friends.” Kirby added, “so the president’s been clear. We don’t want to see this escalate. We’re not looking for a wider war with Iran. I think, you know, the coming hours and days will tell us a lot.”
- During a phone call with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on April 14, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [thanked](#) Austin for the United States’ “unparalleled cooperation and

coordination,” and noted the opportunity to build an international coalition and strategic alliance to combat the shared threat that the Iranian regime poses, according to a readout from Gallant’s office.

- On April 14, CENTCOM chief GEN Michael “Erik” Kurilla spoke with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi. Halevi “expressed great appreciation for the joint defense effort to thwart and intercept the Iranian attack on Israel,” according to an IDF [statement](#).
  - » Halevi also told Kurilla that the “close cooperation between the armies throughout the war resulted in the creation of a strong defense coalition that proved itself last night.”
- On April 14, a senior Biden administration official [denied](#) that the Iranian regime provided 72 hours notice of the attack and argued, “they might want to now say that what we didn’t mean to [cause casualties], but if you launch 100 ballistic missiles targeting certain locations — that was clearly their intent, they just didn’t succeed.”
  - » The official added, “our goal remains to de-escalate immediately and halt any further attack ... [But] if Iran takes action against us, we’re fully prepared to defend our people, our interests, and to hold Iran accountable— something we have worked day and night to avoid since October 7.”
- On April 14, during an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council, U.S. Alternative Representative for Special Political Affairs Robert Wood [stated](#) that “if Iran or its proxies take actions against the United States or further action against Israel, Iran will be held responsible.”
  - » Wood called for “an unambiguous condemnation from the [Security] Council of Iran’s unprecedented, large-scale attack and an unequivocal call on it and its proxies and partners to refrain from further violence.”
    - Wood also stated, “in the coming days, and in consultation with other Member States, the United States will explore additional measures to hold Iran accountable here at the United Nations. More immediately, the Security Council must unequivocally condemn Iran’s aggressive actions and call for Iran and its partners and proxies to cease their attacks.”
  - » Wood also stated, “the United States is not seeking escalation. Our actions have been purely defensive in nature ... our goal is to de-escalate.”
- On April 14, the [Democratic Majority for Israel](#) and [Republican Jewish Coalition](#) released a joint statement that they “rarely see eye to eye. But today we are united in condemning Iran’s unwarranted, indiscriminate, and disproportionate attack against Israeli civilians— Jewish and Arab.”
  - » The statement added, “history will not forgive the failure of Congress to act. Let’s get it done!”
- On April 14, a senior Biden administration official [told reporters](#) that “Israel really came out far ahead in this exchange. It took out the IRGC leadership in the Levant, Iran tried to respond, and Israel clearly demonstrated its military superiority, defeating this attack, particularly in coordination with its partners.”
  - » The administration official added, “we have disagreements with Israel on a number of things, including in particular on Gaza. Those are things we’re continuing to work through, but when it comes to the defense of Israel against Iran, the commitment truly is ironclad.”

- After the attack against Israel on April 13, Biden released a [statement](#) in which he “condemn[ed] these attacks in the strongest possible terms.” He added, “Israel demonstrated a remarkable capacity to defend against and defeat even unprecedented attacks—sending a clear message to its foes that they cannot effectively threaten the security of Israel.”
  - » A senior Biden administration [explained](#) on April 14 that Biden told Netanyahu to “think carefully and strategically about the risk of escalation.”
    - The U.S. official stated, “Israel has made clear to us that they’re not looking for a significant escalation with Iran. They’re looking to protect themselves and defend themselves.
    - The official added that how to proceed is “a calculation the Israelis have to make. This was an unprecedented attack from Iran against Israel. At the same time, we think in the overall exchange here, the Israelis came out very much on top,” while also noting “we are committed to defending Israel, [but] we would not be a part of any response.
  - » According to [reporting](#) by Barak Ravid in *Axios*, President Biden told Prime Minister Netanyahu during a phone call on April 13, “you got a win. Take the win.”
- On April 13, Vice President Kamala Harris [posted](#) on X, “our support for Israel’s security is ironclad, and we stand with the people of Israel in defense against these attacks.”
- On April 13, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) released a [statement](#) that “in light of Iran’s unjustified attack on Israel, the House will move from its previously announced legislative schedule next week to instead consider legislation that supports our ally Israel and holds Iran and its terrorist proxies accountable.”
  - » The announcement did not clarify what aid package the House would vote upon.
- In addition to intercepting over 70 drones and missiles during the Iranian regime’s attack on April 13 and 14, U.S. forces also [struck](#) a Houthi ballistic missile on its launcher and seven drones in Yemen before they were launched.
- On April 12, the day before the Iranian regime’s attack, the president [repeated](#) his message to Iran from right after October 7: “don’t.” Biden also noted, “we are devoted to the defense of Israel. We will support Israel. We will help defend Israel and Iran will not succeed.”
- On April 12, GEN Michael “Erik” Kurilla, commander of U.S. Central Command, extended his visit to Israel by one day and [met](#) with Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant at Israel’s Hatzor Airbase to prepare for the imminent Iranian regime attack.
- On April 12, the USS *Dwight Eisenhower* aircraft carrier sailed north through the Red Sea toward Israel and a U.S. official told [Fox News](#) that the United States moved “additional assets” to the Middle East “to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for U.S. forces.”
- On April 12, the U.S. Treasury Department [sanctioned](#) Hudhayfa Samir ‘Abdallah al-Kahlut (al-Kahlut), known as “Abu Ubeida,” who has been the spokesman for the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, since at least 2007. Treasury also sanctioned leaders of Hamas’s drone unit, including William Abu Shanab, the commander of the Lebanon-based al-Shimali unit, Bara’a Hasan Farhat, the assistant to Abu Shanab, and Khalil Muhammad ‘Azzam.
- On April 15, several Western nations urged Israel to show restraint after the Iranian regime’s attack against it.

- » Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz [stated](#), "everyone agrees that the way in which Israel managed to successfully repel this attack ... is really impressive." He added, "that is a success that should not be given away, and therefore our advice is to contribute to de-escalation."
- » U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron [argued](#) for Israel to "think with head as well as heart" and that "they're perfectly justified to think they should respond because they have been attacked, but we are urging them as friends to think with head as well as heart, to be smart as well as tough."
- » France's President Emmanuel Macron [indicated](#), "we are all worried about a possible escalation."
- On April 15, a spokesperson for Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs [indicated](#) that the ministry summoned the Iranian regime's ambassador to Germany to discuss the attack against Israel.
- Overnight on April 14-15, during the UN Security Council session about the Iranian regime's attack against Israel, Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan [argued](#), "the mask of Iranian deniability has been removed. No more hiding and no more bluffing. No more shirking of responsibility. Iran has attacked Israel from its own sovereign territory, publicly and proudly. The mask is off."
  - » He added, "Iran, the number one world sponsor of terror, has exposed its true face as the destabilizer of the region and the world ... Right now is when the world must stop ignoring Iran's crimes and take action."
  - » Erdan noted, "all of the terror groups attacking Israel are tentacles of the same Shiite octopus — the Iranian octopus," and he called on UN Security Council members to "impose all possible sanctions on Iran before it's too late."
- On April 14, Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Iran's ambassador because the Iranian regime had questioned Jordan assisting Israel to shoot down drones and missiles. Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs [posted](#) on X, "everything that poses a threat to Jordan and to the security of Jordanians, we confront with all our capabilities and abilities."
- On April 13 and 14, numerous world leaders [condemned](#) the Iranian regime's attack against Israel, including the leaders of the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Ukraine, Denmark, Norway, the Czech Republic, Argentina, and Paraguay, along with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrel.
  - » U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak [claimed](#) the Iranian regime's attack against Israel was a "dangerous and unnecessary escalation" and that he want[ed] to pay tribute to the bravery and professionalism of our pilots flying into the face of danger to protect civilians."
  - » U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron [stated](#) that he "formally condemned in the strongest terms" Iran's attack against Israel during a call with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Cameron added that he "made clear that Iran must stop these reckless attacks, de-escalate and release the *MSC Aries*."
  - » Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky [posted](#) on X that "Ukraine condemns Iran's attack on Israel using 'Shahed' drones and missiles. We in Ukraine know very well the horror of similar attacks by Russia, which uses the same 'Shahed' drones and Russian missiles, the same tactics of mass air strikes."

- He added, “every effort must be made to prevent a further escalation in the Middle East. Iran’s actions threaten the entire region and the world, just as Russia’s actions threaten a larger conflict, and the obvious collaboration between the two regimes in spreading terror must face a resolute and united response from the world.”
- Zelensky argued, “the world cannot wait for discussions to go on. Words do not stop drones and do not intercept missiles. Only tangible assistance does. The assistance we are anticipating. We must strengthen security and resolutely counter all those who want to make terror a new normal. It is critical that the United States Congress make the necessary decisions to strengthen America’s allies at this critical time.”
- » France’s Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne [posted](#) on X, “France condemns in the strongest terms the attack launched by Iran against Israel. By deciding on such an unprecedented action, Iran is taking a new step in its destabilizing actions and taking the risk of a military escalation.” He added, “France reaffirms its attachment to Israel’s security and assures it of its solidarity.”
- » Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [stated](#) that Canada “unequivocally condemns Iran’s airborne attacks against Israel,” and “we support Israel’s right to defend itself and its people from these attacks.”
- » Spokesperson for Germany’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz Steffen Hebestreit [stated](#) that Scholz condemned the Iranian regime’s attack “in the strongest possible terms.” Hebestreit added, “with this irresponsible and unjustifiable attack, Iran is risking a regional conflagration,” and “Germany stands closely by Israel’s side.”
- » Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock [stated](#) that “Iran is isolated with its aggressive behavior with which it wants to destabilize an entire region.” She added, “Israel’s capacities have shown Israel is strong, Israel can protect itself.”
  - Israel’s Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz [posted](#) that during a phone call with Baerbock, Gantz “conveyed [his] appreciation for both Germany’s and the Minister’s personal clear stance in support of Israel and the unequivocal German condemnation of the Iranian attack against the State of Israel.” Gantz added that they “discussed first and foremost the imperative of forming a global united front to counter emboldened Iranian aggression directly and through its proxies - regionally and globally.”
- » UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released a [statement](#) that “I strongly condemn the serious escalation represented by the large-scale attack launched on Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran this evening. I call for an immediate cessation of these hostilities. I am deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation. I urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid any action that could lead to major military confrontations on multiple fronts in the Middle East. I have repeatedly stressed that neither the region nor the world can afford another war.”
- » The European Union’s foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell [posted](#) on X, “the EU strongly condemns the unacceptable Iranian attack against Israel. This is an unprecedented escalation and a grave threat to regional security.”
- On April 14, numerous countries expressed concern about the escalation but did not condemn the Iranian regime’s attack.
  - » Russia’s Foreign Ministry released a [statement](#) indicating, “we are counting on the regional states to solve the existing problems with political and diplomatic means.” The

statement added that Moscow had “extreme concern over the latest dangerous escalation in the region.”

- » An unnamed Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson [stated](#) that “China expresses deep concern over the current escalation and calls on relevant parties to exercise calm and restraint to prevent further escalations.” The spokesperson added, “China calls on the international community, especially countries with influence, to play a constructive role for the peace and stability of the region.”
- » Turkey’s Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan Turkey [reportedly](#) told Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during a phone call that Turkey does not want further escalation in the region.
- » Chile’s Foreign Minister Alberto van Klaveren [posted](#) on X that the country “condemns the use of force” but did not explicitly condemn Iran.
- » Mexico’s foreign ministry [released](#) a statement that it “expresses deep concern over Iran’s attack” but likewise did not directly condemn Tehran.
- » Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez [stated](#) that the government is “following events in the Middle East with the deepest concern” and its embassies will remain open “to support Spaniards in the area.”
- » Saudi Arabia’s foreign ministry released a [statement](#) calling for the “highest levels of self-restraint.”
- » The United Arab Emirates government [warned](#) about “instability” in the region.
- » Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry [urged](#) both Israel and the Iranian regime “to exercise utmost self-restraint and refrain from provocations that would increase tension and instability in the region.”
  - Shoukry added, the conflict between Israel and the Iranian regime “has begun taking a dangerous turn as it coincides with the crisis in the Gaza Strip and adds tension to other hot spots in the region.”
- On April 14, Reza Pahlavi, the exiled crown prince of Iran [posted](#) on Facebook, “Khamenei’s war is not Iran’s war or that of the Iranian nation.” He added, “Khamenei and his regime have turned Iran into a backward and isolated country, and by involving the nation and the state in another war, they only add to the misery of Iranians.”
- On April 12, the European Union [added](#) Hamas’s al-Qassam Brigades, PIJ’s Al-Quds Brigades, and Hamas’s Nukhba Force to its human rights sanctions list.

### *Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks*

- On April 15, anti-Israel protesters [blocked](#) a highway near the city of Utrecht in the Netherlands, stalling thousands of vehicles for several hours.
- On April 14, at a European Youth Forum (YFJ) event at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, attendees began [shouting](#) “Free Palestine,” “Ceasefire Now,” and accusing Israel of genocide. When the head of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) objected, the crowd started booing and insulting her, accusing her of “hate speech” and calling her a “fascist Zionist.” The EUJS said it “strongly condemns” the behavior of the YFJ.
- On April 14, during a pro-Palestinian march in Toronto, Canada, a protest leader [announced](#), “the Islamic Republic of Iran has just sent tens of drones towards Israel!” *The*

*Jerusalem Post* reported that the crowd “erupted in celebration” and that the “protest leader led them in shouts of ‘Allahu Akbar!’”

- On April 13, *The Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) that a Holocaust memorial in Kasauti, Moldova, was vandalized with graffiti that said “Free Palestine” on March 22.
- On April 13, thousands of anti-government protestors [gathered](#) in Tel Aviv, Israel, demanding a hostage deal and new elections.
- On April 13, the IDF [indicated](#) that it had restored calm to the West Bank after nearly a dozen villages reported attacks by Israeli civilians following the murder of an Israeli teenager. Dozens of Israelis and Palestinians were [injured](#) in the incidents.
- On April 13, violence and rioting erupted across the West Bank after an Israeli boy, 14-year-old Benjamin Achimeir, was [murdered](#) in a terror attack. His body was found a day after the boy disappeared while shepherding near the outpost of Malachei Shalom.
  - » Video footage circulating online [showed](#) Israelis setting fire to a vehicle in a private parking lot. In the video, IDF troops can be seen guarding the settlers and do not attempt to intervene as they set the car ablaze.

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- Ari Cicurel and Zac Schildcrout, [Opportunities to Disrupt Iran-Russia Drone Axis](#), April 12, 2024
- Webinar: [Civilians, Casualties, and Compliance: IDF Operations in Gaza](#), with LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.) and MAJ John Spencer, USA (ret.), April 12, 2024
- Jacob Olidort and Yoni Tobin, [Iran’s Escalation in the West Bank](#), April 11, 2024
- LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), “[This Is What Happens When the Basic Rules of War Are Ignored](#),” *The Cipher Brief*, April 10, 2024