

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

*Diamond & Nugget #327*

## Current Events through a Biblical World View!

### **Massive explosions at two Iranian air bases in suspected Israeli surgical airstrikes**

Here's what we know at this hour about this dramatic and dangerous new development in the Middle East

Joel C. Rosenberg | Published: April 19, 2024

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL — Just minutes ago, massive explosions occurred at two of Iran's most important air bases, a U.S. intelligence expert tells ALL ISRAEL NEWS.

It is widely believed in the region that these were Israeli surgical airstrikes – possibly conducted by F-35 stealth fighter jets – or the result of Israeli ballistic or cruise missile attacks, possibly launched from Israeli submarines operating in the Persian Gulf.

While U.S. President Joe Biden has insisted that Israel not retaliate for the unprecedented Iranian decision to fire 320 missiles and suicide drones at Israel late last Saturday night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted this week that Israel would make its own decisions regarding its national security.

Netanyahu has wanted to hit Iran's nuclear facilities since 2012 but had never been able to secure the full support of Israel's top military and civilian leadership.

Iran's brazen attack this week appears to have dramatically changed the calculus of Israel's War Cabinet.

At 4:27 a.m. Israel time, ABC News correspondent Martha Raddatz reported the following: *“A U.S. official confirmed to ABC News – Israeli missiles have hit a site in Iran.”*

There are also unconfirmed reports at this hour that the IDF hit Iranian targets in Iraq and Syria.

On Wednesday, Netanyahu told the British and German foreign ministers visiting the country: *"I thank our friends for their support in defense of Israel and I say this – support in both words and deeds. They also have all kinds of suggestions and advice, which I appreciate; however, I would also like to clarify – we will make our decisions ourselves. The State of Israel will do whatever is necessary to defend itself."*

An Iranian-American just posted this on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter: *"Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) tells passengers that all flights have been canceled and that they should exit the airport."*

Florida Senator Marco Rubio just posted this on X: *"Israel has the ability to conduct strikes against targets inside Iran without entering Iranian air space from aircraft over Syrian and Iraqi airspace."*

As of 5:22 a.m. Israel time, the Israeli military is now at its highest level of alert.

Most Israelis are asleep and are not aware this is happening.

But there is a very real possibility now that Iran will retaliate directly, and/or order Hezbollah to fire some of its 150,000 missiles at Israel.

The big question now: Is tonight's attack on Iranian nuclear facilities Israel's only response – or is it just the beginning of many more IDF attacks?

**[[ The round of reciprocity+ attacks will most definitely change everyone's lives forever! I have a lot more information further into this Blessed Hope. –Pastor Bob ]]**

## **NEW NAME FOR GATES INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: NEW NAME – SAME AGENDA**

The diabolical duo – Bill and Melinda Gates – did their dirty deed to our world by promoting the CLOT SHOT. Has it been 4 years?

Looking back, it seems like a monumental 'drive by' and now they're off in the wind, thinking up new depopulation events and methods.

Is Billy Boy involved in Disease X? You betcha.

How could he refuse?

This article was published by Johns Hopkins University. They partnered with Gates to push the JABS on the world.

From [hub.jhu.edu](http://hub.jhu.edu).

The newly renamed William H. Gates Sr. Institute for Population and Reproductive Health also unveiled new strategic priorities synthesizing five interconnected global programs with its cross-cutting gender equity work.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health—known for its groundbreaking work on sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equity—as of today has been renamed the William H. Gates Sr. Institute for Population and Reproductive Health.

Based in the Bloomberg School's Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, the institute works to promote and cultivate new ways to accelerate locally led progress in gender equity and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Together with local partners, the institute identifies ideas with the greatest promise for impact on the greatest number of people, especially in under-resourced and marginalized communities.

The institute's new name honors the late William H. Gates Sr. (1925-2020) and his inspirational role in philanthropy and lifelong contributions to improving global health and health equity.

*"The renaming of the Gates Institute also honors Bill Sr.'s foundational support for the Bloomberg School of Public Health to establish the institute 24 years ago," says Ellen J. MacKenzie, dean of the Bloomberg School. "That investment has enabled the institute to train the leaders of today and tomorrow, engage in groundbreaking research, lead innovative programs, and make positive disruptions to increase family planning access and improve reproductive health across the world."*

In 1997, a two-year planning grant led by William H. Gates Sr. from what would become the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported a new initiative at the Bloomberg School to strengthen population and reproductive health capacity in the developing world. In 1999, the foundation provided an additional \$20 million to officially establish what would become the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, capitalizing on the initiative's global public health leadership. Since 2012, the institute has grown significantly and diversified its funding base.

The institute has reached millions across the globe through programs including The Challenge Initiative, Performance Monitoring for Action, and SMART Advocacy. The institute has organized the International Conference on Family Planning since 2009. Since its inaugural event in Kampala, Uganda, the conference has become a pivotal catalyst in global reproductive health.

The institute is also unveiling a refreshed 2023-2030 vision, mission, and strategy synthesizing its strategic priorities to form five interconnected Global Programs, alongside its cross-cutting gender equity work:

Research, measurement, and data monitoring  
Policy, advocacy, and community-building  
Best practices scale up  
Next generation leaders, and  
Demographic futures, population, and environment

*“On behalf of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, I want to express our deep appreciation for the renaming of the institute to the William H. Gates Sr. Institute for Population and Reproductive Health,”* says Anita Zaidi, gender equality president at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. *“The name honors the enduring legacy of Bill Sr. whose vision and dedication to global health have left an indelible mark on the world and improved countless lives.”*

The institute is embarking on a search for its new leader. Jose G. “Oying” Rimon II, who has served as director since 2014, has announced his retirement. A prominent figure in the fields of family planning and reproductive health, Rimon’s career spans 40 years in leadership roles. He will continue to serve as director of the Gates Institute while a global search is conducted for his successor. The search committee will be chaired by Michael Klag, dean emeritus and Second Century Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

*“We extend our gratitude to Oying Rimon for his 10 years of leadership at the institute to advance reproductive health, family planning, and health equity,”* Zaidi says. *“As the institute transitions to this new chapter, we look forward to seeing it continue to strive to improve the lives of individuals and families globally, and to create a more equal world.”*

A more equal world, huh? Oh, that means ‘gender’ equality. They’re big on that. Can you clearly see that everything these globalist elites support ALL point to **DEPOPULATION!?**

**ABORTION: DEPOPULATION**

**POISON VACCINES: DEPOPULATION**

**TRANSGENDER EQUALITY: DEPOPULATION (How many kids are Trans going to have?)**

**FILLING THE SKY WITH PARTICLES: DEPOPULATION**

**LBGTQ: DEPOPULATION**

Not many people connect the dots when it comes to Depopulation.

There is a method to their madness!

MARANATHA!

## Vatican News: Protestants “Feel Connected” to Pope Francis for His Commitment to the Environment

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony”

Rome’s climate agenda is bringing the Protestant world to its feet. A universal alignment is taking place in which Catholic and Protestant leaders are uniting to promote the very same message. The world is coming under Pope Francis’ leadership to save the planet, even as sin, lawlessness, continues to spread at an alarming rate.



The chairwoman of the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation and presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany, Kristina Kühnbaum-Schmidt, met with Pope Francis and expressed that she was “very moved” [1] by their encounter. On April 17, 2024, Vatican News published an interview with Lutheran Bishop Kristina Kühnbaum-Schmidt in which she expressed greetings to Pope Francis on behalf of German Protestants. She told Francis that many people, namely Protestants, being that she is the top Lutheran in Germany, feel connected to the Pope for his advocacy on behalf of climate change. The Vatican News published the following:

• “First of all, I conveyed the greetings of the Lutheran Christians from Germany to the Pope, and I thanked him for the fact that many feel connected to him in his great and committed commitment to the preservation of creation and for Climate justice. I also mentioned that it is currently very important to us as Christians all

over the world and that it unites us to work for peace.”<sup>[1]</sup>

• “I was also able to tell him how important it is to Christians, especially in our country, to the Lutheran believers, but also to our other brothers and sisters, that we continue to make further progress in the steps towards unity with one another.”<sup>[1]</sup>

• “All discussions serve to ensure that things continue to move forward. And every conversation is a good step, which means: We have good conversations with each other, we exchange ideas and we all hope that there will always be a deeper understanding of each other, an ever greater community and also signs of visible unity.”<sup>[1]</sup>

Laudato Si' has become the new creed of faith and evangelistic efforts for the church today. The message for the world is not about stopping sin and disobedience to God; no, but rather, the new gospel is to get everyone to embrace the ecological conversion and the new sustainable economy based on papal doctrines. Almost all the Protestant churches are essentially saying the same thing. The message has become indistinguishable. Catholics and Protestants are preaching the same sermon. Why is that so? The answer is simple:

**“For all nations have drunk of the wine (Sunday sacredness and all other Catholic social doctrines) of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”** -(Revelation 18:3)

Rome speaks, and the world listens. Pope Francis commands, and the sheep obey. Some people do it for financial gain, others out of convenience, and still others, like many of our church leaders, including Ganoune Diop<sup>[2]</sup> and others, out of a fear of defying the beast of revelation. The entire world has jumped on the same train, and Pope Francis is the conductor. Here, we are witnessing how Protestant leaders are completely witnessing the selling out to join Rome's one-world government.

How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see ... And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism.

#### Sources

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.vaticannews.va/de/kirche/news/2024-04/deutschland-lutherischer-weltbund-vorsitzende-traf-papst.html>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://adventmessenger.org/the-great-adventist-controversy/>

## **US approves Rafah Operation in Exchange for No Israeli Counter-strikes on Iran - report**

### **Israel allegedly obtained approval for an operation in Rafah as long as it doesn't strike Iran, according to Qatari reports.**

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF APRIL 18, 2024

The U.S. has approved a potential Israeli Rafah operation in exchange for the Jewish state not conducting counterstrikes on Iran, according to a Thursday report from the Qatari newspaper *The New Arab*.

A senior official told *The New Arab* that "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu managed to obtain American approval for a military operation in Rafah, in exchange for [Israel] refraining from carrying out a wide military operation against Iran in response to its recent attack."

He claimed that "discourse of an Israeli response to Iran contradicts the desires of the American administration, and is not realistic, given the Israeli claims that the United States played the major role in repelling the Iranian attack and preventing its success."

The source noted that "the **IDF carried out airstrikes** [overnight on Thursday] on several areas adjacent to the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt," adding that "the relevant officials in Egypt were notified before the execution of some of these strikes, which came in the Philadelphi axis at a space adjacent to the border with Egypt."

The report comes among public statements from some Israeli officials expressing desire to retaliate against Iran, with a report published by the KAN broadcasting channel claimed that Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Michael Herzog, stated on Thursday that "Israel will react to Iran, and it won't take years - soon Iran's missiles will be equipped with nuclear warheads."

The Qatar report also noted that Egypt is exemplifying "full readiness and preparedness of [its] forces stationed in northern Sinai, along the 14-kilometer border strip with the Gaza Strip, as part of a plan to deal with the scenario of a ground invasion in Rafah."

**[[ Intelligence reports suggest that the O'Brien administration wants to delay what most of us believe will be the Ezekiel 38/39 war until after the U.S. presidential election in November of 2024. –Pastor Bob ]]**

As the nations of the world actively seek to temper Israel's response to Sunday's large-scale drone and missile attack by Iran, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear that the Jewish State will make their "own decisions" in defense of their country.

Shortly following meetings with British and German Foreign Ministers, the Israeli leader on Wednesday stressed that foreign powers would not make the decision surrounding Israel's next steps in dealing with the Iranian regime.

*“I thank our friends for their support in defending Israel, and I say support in words and deeds,”* Netanyahu stated. *“They [world leaders] have also all types of suggestions and advice. I appreciate it, but I want to make clear that we will make our own decisions, and the State of Israel will do all that is needed to defend itself.”*

Early Sunday morning Israel-time, the Iranian regime commenced an attack on Israel, which included over three hundred suicide drones, ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles fired from Iran soil. 99% of the airborne projectiles were intercepted prior to reaching the Jewish State, with the US, UK, France, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia also taking part in shooting down the weapons.

At an annual army parade speech on Wednesday, Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi warned that the *“slightest action”* by Israel in retaliation will be *“met with a severe, extensive and painful response.”*

Iran asserted that their attack was conducted in retaliation for an alleged Israeli airstrike on their consulate in Syria in which twelve individuals were killed, including an IRGC general reportedly involved in the “planning and execution” of Hamas’ brutal massacre of Israelis on October 7th.

Since the beginning of the war, Israel has vowed to target and eliminate all terrorists involved in the massacre, no matter their current location. Many have attributed the Iranian regime as responsible for the murderous rampage—which their terror proxy, Hamas, carried out. The most recent country to lambast Iran’s involvement was Saudi Arabia, who insisted earlier this week that Iran strategically timed October 7th to thwart their normalization with Israel.

Sunday’s attack by Iran was the first incident in which Tehran has targeted Israel from its soil, which is usually done by way of its proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, and other terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria.

Prior to Iran’s attempted “blitz,” Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz warned the regime that *“If Iran attacks from its territory, Israel will react and attack in Iran.”*

On Sunday, Israeli President Isaac Herzog called the Iranian attack a *“declaration of war”* and said that Israel is *“considering all options.”*

The United States, the European Union, and others have announced plans to sanction Iran, which The Globe and Mail highlighted is *“seen as aimed at mollifying Israel and persuading it to rein in its retaliation.”*

Erick Stakelbeck, the host of “Stakelbeck Tonight” on Wednesday, asked Amir Tsarfati, Founder and President of Behold Israel, if he sees “any prophetic implications in the showdown right now between Israel and Iran.”



*“Absolutely,” Tsarfati responded.*

*“As much as we would love to see the Ayatollah being toppled and have a much greater regime for the Iranian people—which, by the way, are people whom we love very much—the Bible is telling us that the war with Iran is far from being over,” he explained.*

*“In fact, whether it is going to be defeated by Israel now or call it even, Iran will eventually join a coalition against Israel led by Russia. Lo and behold, we see already that Russia is siding with Iran, Turkey is siding with Iran, and they’re preparing their proxies in Libya and Sudan as well. These are exactly the countries that Ezekiel prophesied as the coalition that is going to come against Israel.”*

*“The Middle East is all about interests, intrigues, and ‘my enemy’s enemy is my friend.’ Israel must be very ready for this Alliance, but you know, we’ll never be ready enough for an alliance of giants like Russia, Iran, and Turkey together,” he stressed.*

Stakelbeck further emphasized, *“The Book of Ezekiel chapters 38-39 talks about God’s Divine hand, and it doesn’t end too well for that Ezekiel Invasion force.”*

According to Tsarfati, many Israelis have recognized the unlikely probability that 99% of Iran’s projectiles on Sunday were intercepted, attributing it to *“divine intervention.”*

*“If we’re seeing divine intervention already,” he stated, “you can imagine how the Israelis are going to be amazed when God shakes the Earth and throws things from the skies on the enemies of [the Jewish State] and defeats them on the mountains of Israel.”*

*“There’s a great Exodus of Jewish people from secularism, hedonism, and materialism,” he described. “We’re at the point where only He can help us. God has always been there for us, and He always wanted us to be at the point where we call for His help and not rely on our own strength. ‘Some trust in horses, some in chariots, but we shall call upon the name of the Lord,’ as Psalm 20 says.”*

## **Significant Increases in Cancer Mortality After COVID mRNA Vaccination, Japanese Researchers Find**

*A Japanese peer-reviewed study found statistically significant increases in cancer mortality, especially after the third COVID-19 mRNA vaccine dose. John Campbell, Ph.D., analyzed the study on his podcast. During a separate episode, Campbell discussed the study with Angus Dalglish, a professor of oncology at St. George’s, University of London.*

By John-Michael Dumais

A Japanese peer-reviewed study found statistically significant increases in cancer mortality, especially after the third COVID-19 mRNA vaccine dose, according to [John Campbell, Ph.D.](#), a prominent healthcare commentator.

In an [April 13 podcast](#), Campbell discussed the study published April 8 in the journal *Cureus*. The study analyzed official Japanese government statistics to compare [age-adjusted cancer mortality rates](#) during the [COVID-19](#) pandemic (2020-2022) with pre-pandemic rates.

Campbell also discussed the findings with oncologist [Angus Dalglish in a podcast](#) that aired today.

Campbell first showed the increases in mortality from all causes in Japan from 2021 through the present. The study indicated a 2.1% mortality increase in 2021 and a **9.6%** increase in 2022.

Regarding cancers, the researchers found no significant excess mortality in 2020, but a 1.1% increase in 2021 after the rollout of the first and second vaccine doses, and a 2.1% increase in 2022, after two-thirds of the population had received a third dose of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Mortality for some cancers increased by as much as **9.7%**, according to the study.

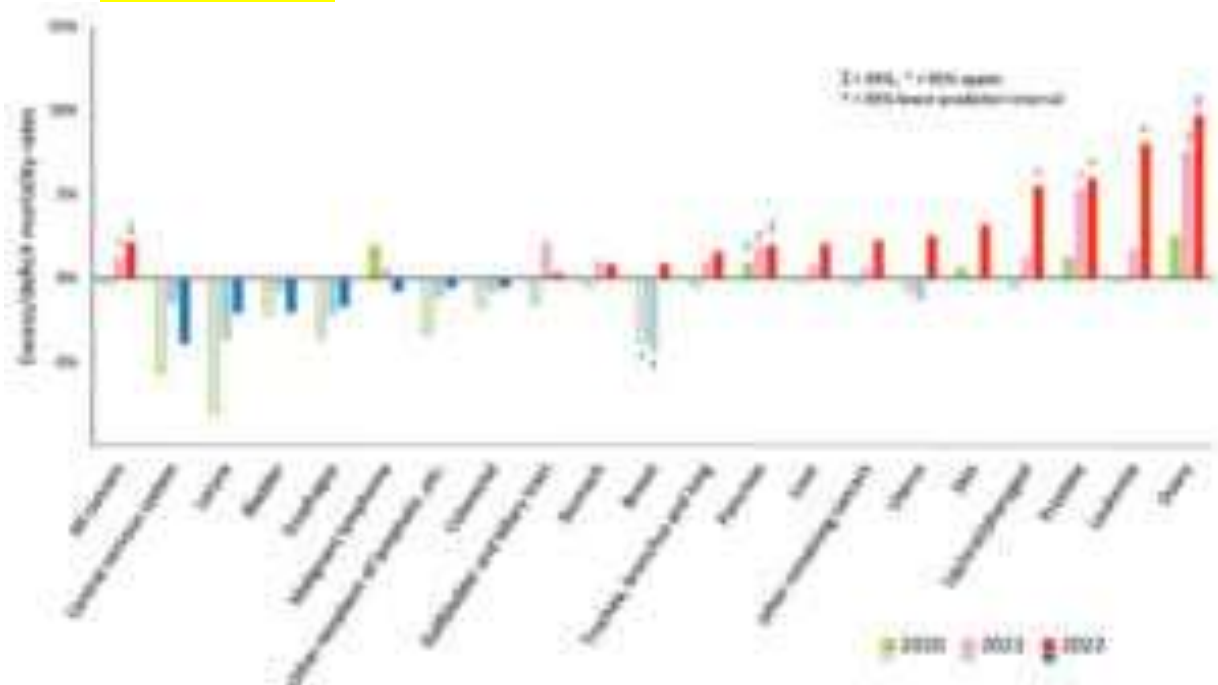


Credit: Gibo M., Kojima S., Fujisawa A., et al.

The data showed significant increases in mortality from the following cancers:

- Ovarian cancer: increases of 2.5% in 2020, 7.6% in 2021 and **9.7%** in 2022.
- Leukemia: a decrease of 0.2% in 2020 and increases of 1.7% in 2021 and **8.0%** in 2022.
- Prostate cancer: increases of 1.2% in 2020, 5.3% in 2021 and **5.9%** in 2022.
- Oral and pharyngeal cancers: a decrease of 0.6% in 2020 and increases of 1.3% in 2021 and **5.5%** in 2022
- Skin cancer: increases of 0.6% in 2020, 0.1% in 2021 and **3.2%** in 2022.

- Uterine cancer: decreases of 1.1% in 2020 and 1.3% in 2021, and a 2.5% increase in 2022



*“So again we see this strong temporal correlation between quite significantly increased ... rates of ovarian cancer with the vaccine rollouts here,” Campbell said, calling each additional correlation “another ‘weird coincidence.’”*

*“All cancer deaths are statistically significant, Campbell said. “Excess [deaths] emerged in 2021 and increased further in 2022. In addition, significant excess mortality was observed after August 2021, whereas mass vaccination of the general population began around April 2021.”*

Campbell noted that while the study did not measure new cases and some types of cancer take years to develop, the findings suggest the vaccines may be accelerating cancer deaths in patients with preexisting tumors.

#### **‘Nothing to see here, just shut up’**

Dalglish, a renowned oncologist and professor at St. George’s, University of London, has warned about the potential risks of RNA-based vaccines since early in the pandemic.

In 2022, he sent an [urgent letter to The BMJ](#) warning about leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other cancers he said are associated with the mRNA shots.

In a [separate interview](#) with Campbell published today, Dalglish said he observed a concerning pattern of rapidly progressing cancers in his patients who had received booster doses.

Dalgleish told Campbell about melanoma patients who were stable for years suddenly going into rapid relapse — typically within 3-12 months after COVID-19 vaccination.

*“I shouted, I screamed: ‘The canary in the mine!’” Dalgleish said, but was told it was “pure anecdotal, nothing to see here, shut up and by the way, you’ll upset cancer patients.”*

Having conducted research on vaccines, Dalgleish said, *“It’s an adage now”* that subsequent booster doses would become increasingly less effective until they *“disturbed the immune system so much that the disease you were trying to prevent was actually fueled by it.”*

Despite the attempts to suppress his observations, Dalgleish said he was contacted by doctors *“from all over the place”* telling him, *“We are seeing the same thing.”*

### **How the vaccines might promote cancer**

The Japanese study authors and Dalgleish discussed several potential mechanisms by which the mRNA vaccines could promote cancer development and progression.

*“These spike proteins and nanoparticles [induce microclots](#),”* Dalgleish said, noting that cancer patients are already predisposed to blood clotting disorders.

*“From my training, I remember specifically that prostate and pancreatic cancers are really associated with increased clotting,”* he said.

*“One of the major causes of mortality in patients with cancer is cancer-associated thrombosis [blood clots],”* the study authors noted.

In addition to the blood clotting risks, the study highlighted the potential for the vaccines to suppress cancer immunosurveillance by interfering with the innate immune response. *“Of course, cancer probably arises regularly, but the immune system [normally] takes care of it,”* Campbell said.

*“T-cell response is suppressed or exhausted ... after the third shot, the first booster,”* Dalgleish said. *“Even my own practice is bullying us to go and get a spring booster to just set you right for the summer. ... It’s unbelievable.”*

*“Some studies have shown that type I interferon responses, which play an essential role in cancer immunosurveillance, are suppressed after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-LNP [[lipid nanoparticle](#)] vaccination,”* the study authors stated.

Campbell and Dalgleish also discussed the possibility of the vaccines directly causing DNA damage and mutations that could lead to cancer, particularly through the inhibition of tumor suppressor genes like [P53](#), [BRCA](#) (breast cancer genes) and [MSH3](#).

The study authors suggested the downregulation of [ACE2 receptors by the spike protein](#) could result in excessive oxidative stress, which can damage DNA and cause cancer.

They cited studies showing that the mRNA can be reverse-transcribed into the human genome, potentially leading to chronic inflammation, [DNA damage](#) and increased risk of cancer.

Finally, the study authors proposed the mRNA vaccines, through the binding ability of the spike proteins, specifically bind to [estrogen receptor alpha](#) (ER $\alpha$ ) and upregulate transcription activity, leading to breast, ovaria and prostate cancers.

Dalgleish also raised the issue of intravascular coagulation — “very long [long clots](#) in the major vessels” that he has heard about “from the mouth of undertakers.”

Campbell said he spoke with U.K.-based undertakers, who said they were seeing it in about 20% of bodies they were embalming. “We know that these clots now almost certainly are made of [amyloid protein](#) ... that can potentially be made from the genetic instruction of the [vaccine] by what’s called [frame shifting](#),” he said.

“My worry is that we might not have seen anything yet, Dalgleish said. “We’re just seeing a few icebergs as we sail across the Atlantic and the big ice sheets have yet to come.”

## **Ex-Mossad Chief Says Hitting Iran's Nuclear Facilities 'On The Table'**

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 17, 2024 - 11:20 AM

Several statements were issued by Iranian leaders on Wednesday as they attended a military parade at a base north of Tehran which featured displays of attack drones and ballistic missiles, just days after Iran's unprecedented Saturday night attack on Israel.

The head of Iran's military, Maj. Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, addressed the army gathering saying, “Currently, **we are in a state of readiness to deal with possible evils**, and what we displayed throughout the country today was a small part of our capabilities,” as cited in state media.

President Ebrahim Raisi was also present at the same annual military parade. He [warned](#) that even the “*tiniest invasion*” or attack by Israel will result in a “**massive and harsh**” response.

Shortly after Raisi's firm warning, an interview was published by [Sky News](#) in which a former Israeli Mossad intelligence chief declared that as part of Israel's retaliation currently being mulled by the Netanyahu government, striking Iranian nuclear facilities “**is on the table.**”

The former director of the spy agency, named Zohar Palti, described that he has "no doubt" that PM Netanyahu could "attack sensitive facilities" in Iran as some cabinet ministers are urging it.

Palti further said the question of deciding the timing of Israel's retaliation operation is "still ongoing" and that some officials are urging Netanyahu to attack "as soon as possible." However, others in Tuesday's war cabinet meeting argued for getting international backing especially from Western partners.

While Tehran boasts of having "changed" the equation in terms of establishing deterrence, *The Wall Street Journal* aptly describes the current state of things, and the possibility of miscalculation, [as follows](#):

*Israel's military has long followed a clear policy: **When enemies strike, hit back so hard they won't do it again. That deterrence is no longer working.***

*Iran, after launching a massive missile-and-drone attack on Israel over the weekend, **is threatening to strike again if Israel retaliates.** Lebanese militia Hezbollah fires at Israeli forces almost every day despite frequent poundings by Israel. And Hamas continues to launch rockets at Israel even after being bludgeoned following its Oct. 7 attacks, which killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli officials.*

***With no side willing to compromise for fear of showing weakness and all players seeking greater deterrence, the risk of stumbling into a regional war increases.***

Meanwhile, the UK, France, and Germany have sent top-ranking diplomats to Israel in order to urge de-escalation of the crisis. The Biden administration is also said to be not be on board with Israel directly striking back on the Islamic Republic. Netanyahu has affirmed 'we will make our own decisions' on security.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said after closed-door talks with Netanyahu that "**Everyone must now act prudently and responsibly.**"

*"A spiraling escalation would serve no one, not Israel's security, not the many dozens of hostages still in the hands of Hamas, not the suffering population of Gaza, not the many people in Iran who are themselves suffering under the regime, and not the third countries in the region who simply want to live in peace," she added.*

### **Secret deal: Iran will attack Israel with Su-35 fighters and S-400 air defense systems**

Moscow could provide Tehran with modern Su-35 fighter jets, which would allow the Iranian air force to undergo significant modernization in anticipation of Israel's response to Saturday's Iranian attack. Information about Iran purchasing Russian Su-35s is not new; this was officially reported back in March last year. However, according to the

Washington Post, this is a secret Russian deal with Iran, which is part of broader arms cooperation.

### **Cooperation between Russia and Iran**

In addition to the supply of Su-35 fighter jets, Russian-Iranian arms cooperation could include joint production of military drones within Russia, technical assistance with the development of Iranian spy satellites and assistance in the construction of rockets to launch them into orbit. In addition, Iran is interested in receiving air defense systems from the Russian Federation.

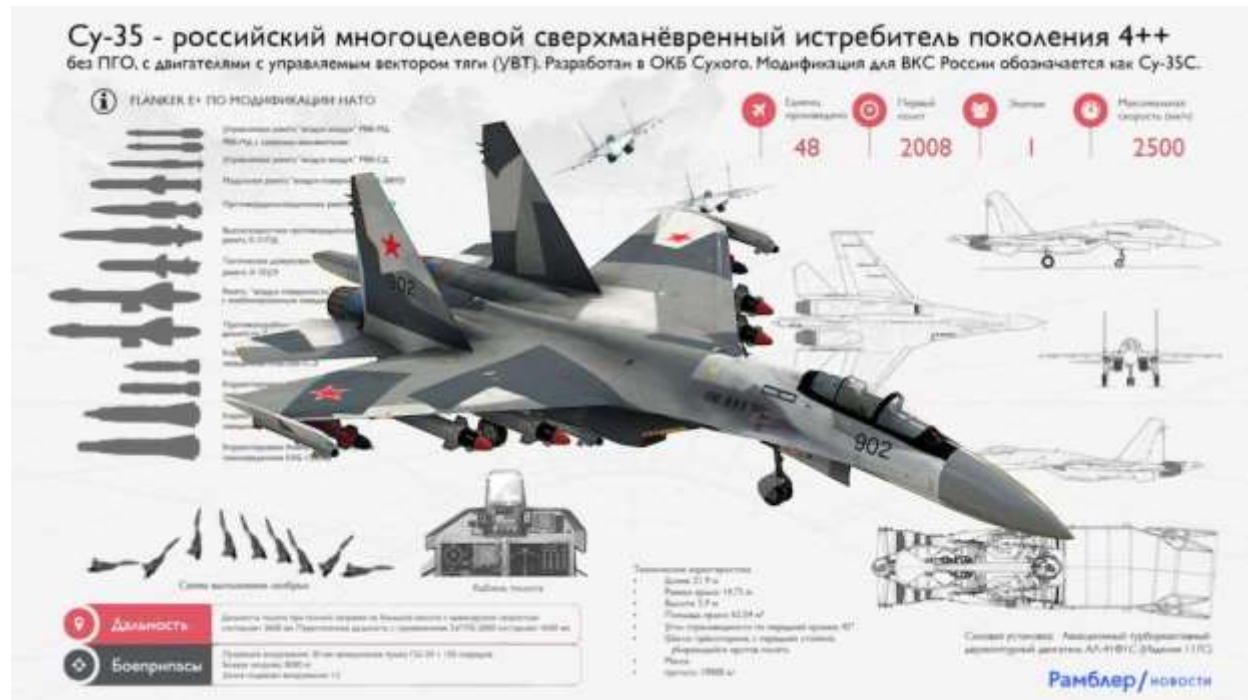
Last March, Russian arms manufacturer Start invited an Iranian delegation on a tour of a defense plant where, among other things, Russian air defense systems, launchers and components for anti-aircraft batteries, including the S-400, are produced. These air defense systems are capable of detecting and destroying stealth fighters flown by the Israeli and US military.



### **Su-35 Capabilities**

Su-35 fighters are one of the most powerful 4++ generation fighters in the world and fully meet Tehran's technical requirements. The maximum speed of this fighter is 1500 km/h at low altitude and 2500 km/h at high altitude, and the service life of its engines reaches 4000 hours. The aircraft is capable of detecting 30 targets using an advanced phased array radar with a range of 350 to 400 km.

Moreover, the Su-35 can simultaneously hit eight targets. The fighter is armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, as well as anti-ship and anti-radar missiles. The maximum weight of the Su-35's portable weapons is eight tons, and the flight range is up to 4500 kilometers.



### New opportunities for Iran

Iran is seeking to modernize its military and improve its defense capabilities amid ongoing tensions in the region. In particular, Tehran pays great attention to the development of its missile forces and air defense systems. In this context, the supply of Su-35 fighter jets and other modern weapons from Russia could significantly strengthen Iran's defense capabilities.

[[ The Russian SU-35 is comparable to the U.S. F-15. Nonetheless, the Su-35 takes the crown of best dogfighter, and also remains a very capable and versatile missile platform against both air and ground targets, though it is held back by its lack of state-of-the-art AESA radar.

The Su-35S has a powerful Irbis-E passive electronically scanned array radar with a range of up to 400 kilometers; it is also effective against ground targets. However, the F-15's APG-63 V3 Active Electronically Scanned Array radar is superior—harder to jam, higher resolution and harder to track.

The Su-35 boasts an infrared search and track system (IRST), which allows it to determine the general position of aircraft within a fifty kilometer radius—potentially quite useful for detecting stealth aircraft at shorter ranges. The F-15 doesn't have an IRST.

However, a new add-on pod that is entering service, Talon HATE, will not only add an IRST to the F-15 but provide data fusion with other air and surface sensors, even allowing it to network with F-22 Raptor stealth fighters, which use a nonstandard datalink. Using this system, Raptors could fly ahead and identify hostile targets and send the targeting data to missile-firing F-15s a safer distance to the rear.



The F-15 wasn't designed to be stealthy—and it isn't, with an average radar cross section of five meters squared. The Su-35 has been designed for stealth, and reportedly can achieve a radar cross section ranging between one to three meters squared. So the Su-35 will show up on radars less quickly—but a radar cross-section of one meter squared can still be detected at fairly long ranges by good modern radars, and will not protect it from being targeted by long-range missiles.

### **Beyond Visual Range Combat**

The latest air to air missiles can be launched at targets well over 100 kilometers away. While the United States Air Force is convinced that beyond visual range (BVR) combat will dominate air warfare in the twenty-first century, with missiles fired over vast distances, the Russian aviation establishment is more skeptical. It holds that electronic counter measures and evasive maneuvers will lower the hit probability against maneuverable fighter aircraft considerably below the projected fifty to seventy percent hit rate. Russian aircraft are still designed to engage in BVR warfare, but with the belief that short-range combat is likely to ensue after BVR volleys are exchanged.

In terms of weapons load, the Su-35 has twelve or more hardpoints for carrying missiles compared to just eight on the F-15C. This is a clear advantage for the Su-35, which will likely fire multiple missiles at a time to increase hit probability; however, this edge may prove temporary. Boeing is offering to upgrade F-15s with quad-rail racks that will double the F-15's loadout to sixteen. This would enable rear-deployed F-15s to serve as "missile boats" firing at targets painted by a vanguard of F-22 stealth fighters. For the time being, however, the F-15 is out-missiled.

Both the F-15 and Su-35 carry long-range, radar-guided air-to-air missiles: the AIM-120D (160 kilometer range) and the K-77M (200 kilometers range). These missiles are basically in the same class—though the comparative effectiveness of their seekers has yet to be established—and would likely be fired under their maximum range when used against fighter-type aircraft to increase the likelihood of a kill.

The Su-35 can also fire the super-long range (300-400 kilometer) R-37M missile, designed to take out ungainly tanker and AWACS support aircraft.

Another advantage of the Su-35 is its L175M Khibiny radar jamming system. While American AESA radars are believed to be resistant to jamming, the same is not believed to be true of the radars in AIM-120 missiles; the air-to-air missiles may have a high failure rate against aircraft protected by the Khibiny. In contrast, the Eagle's Tactical Electronic Warfare Set countermeasure system dates back to the 1970s—a new system is being proposed as part of the Eagle 2040 upgrade package.

### **Within Visual Range Combat**

The Eagle is no slouch when it comes to maneuverability—in fact, it is one of the first designs to prove a heavy fighter could still pull off tight, energy-efficient turns and accelerate while climbing, thanks to low wing loading and high thrust-to-weight ratio.

However, the Su-35 is simply in a class of its own. It uses vector-thrust turbofans—which means its engine nozzles can move independently to allow it to perform tight turns and yaws and maintain high angles of attack (in which the plane’s nose is pointed in a different direction than the plane is moving) that ordinary aircraft can’t match. The Su-35 will reliably dance around an F-15 in a low-speed dogfight.

In terms of weapons, the F-15 and Su-35 are more evenly matched with their heat-seeking AIM-9X and R-73 missiles: both missile types can be fired “off-boresight” at targets outside the frontal cone of the aircraft via helmet-mounted sights. Such missiles are believed to have kill probabilities of seventy to eighty percent.

The deadly effectiveness of these short-range air-to-air missiles—and the fact that aircraft no longer need to be pointed at their adversaries to launch missiles at them—may actually diminish the benefits of superior maneuverability in future close-range encounters.

### **Ground Attack**

The Su-35S can carry over 17,000 pounds of munitions on its hardpoints, with up to 14 usable for air-to-ground attacks.

The F-15C can carry...none. Because it is purely an air superiority fighter. (To be fair, refitting for ground combat would not be an insurmountable task—Israel already refitted its Eagles in the 70s in this manner and used them to destroy the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osiriak.)

The F-15E Strike Eagle can carry 23,000 pounds of ordnance. The Strike Eagle can fly just as fast as the F-15C and carry the same air-to-air weapons, but it is somewhat less maneuverable and agile in Within Visual Range combat due to its heavier weight.

In other practical respects, the Russian military makes less use of precision-guided munitions than the United States, and uses a smaller range of types. However, the Su-35 is well equipped to employ them using the ground-attack mode of its Irbis-E radar.

### **Maintainability**

In general, the United States has tended to make expensive aircraft with long service lives. The Soviet Union and later Russia has tended to make affordable aircraft with short service lives and higher maintenance requirements. Some Russian fighters, such as the earlier Su-30 Flanker, have also suffered from significant reliability issues.

The Su-35 appears to narrow the gap in this regard somewhat—it is supposed to last six thousand flight hours. The F-15C and E are rated to last eight thousand and sixteen thousand hours, and the former is likely to undergo a life-extension program. On the other hand, the Su-35s rolling off of factory production lines will be at the beginning of their service lives, while most F-15 airframes date back to the 1970s and 1980s.

### **The Next Generation F-15?**

Boeing has marketed an advanced, stealthy version of the F-15, the Silent Eagle, for years—and it may finally have found a customer in Israel. Recently, Boeing also began promoting an upgrade package for the F-15C, the Eagle 2040C, designed to keep the air-superiority version viable up to 2040.

### **Would Silent Eagles and Eagle 2040s redress the downsides of contemporary F-15s?**

First of all, the Su-35's advantage in maneuverability would remain unchallenged. The Silent Eagle may boast a radar cross section as low as one-tenth of one meter squared from the front, ten times smaller than the Su-35. However, the rear and sides would remain unstealthy, though they would still have a decent stealth advantage on a head-on pass.

The Eagle 2040C package would also include IRST and F-22 datalink capacity via the Talon HATE pod, a new electronic countermeasure system, and a potential doubling of missile capacity.

### **In Conclusion**

Ultimately, future air-combat capabilities may be increasingly defined by the effectiveness of missiles and electronic counter measures rather than the aircraft carrying them, particularly in regards to non-stealth air frames.



However, the supply of Russian weapons to Iran is causing serious concern in the West, in particular in the United States and Israel, which believe that this could destabilize the situation in the region and increase the security threat from Iran.

Against the backdrop of information emerging about the supply of Su-35 fighter jets and S-400 systems to Iran, Israel may abandon air strikes on the territory of the Islamic republic. Otherwise, Iran will attack Israel with Su-35 fighters and S-400 air defense systems.

Israel has sent a formal request in January, 2023 to the United States to purchase 25 advanced F-15-EX fighter jets with an eye to boosting its capabilities to strike Iran, the [Breaking Defense](#) news site reported.

The Defense Ministry sent an official Letter of Request (LOR) to the U.S., the Thursday report said, citing industry sources. The LOR is the first step in the process that will now see Israel and the U.S. negotiate over the exact number of jets and the price of the Boeing-manufactured warplanes.

The report also said that Israel's decision was made more urgent by the burgeoning defense ties between Iran and Russia and fears that Moscow could supply Iran with the advanced S-400 anti-aircraft defense system.

It also said that Israel relies on the F-15s to target the hundreds of thousands of rockets operated by the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon.

Many of Israel's F-15 fighter jets — known in Hebrew as the “Baz,” or “Falcon” — were first constructed and delivered in the 1970s, though they have been upgraded and refurbished in the interim decades.

If the deal goes through and Israel returns to purchasing F-15s, it would mark the first Boeing fighter jet acquisition by the Israeli Air Force in two decades. In the years since, Israel has bought 100 F-16s and another 50 F-35 stealth jets from Boeing's chief competitor, Lockheed Martin.

The Biden administration was close to approving the sale of as many as 50 American-made F-15 fighter jets to Israel, in a deal expected to be worth more than \$18 billion, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The transaction, which would amount to the largest U.S. foreign military sale to Israel since the country went to war with Hamas on October 7, comes as the administration is also expected to notify Congress soon of a large new sale of precision-guided munitions kits to Israel, the people said.

The new sales of some of the U.S.' most sophisticated weaponry underscore the extent to which the U.S. continues to support Israel militarily, even as Biden administration

officials criticize Israel's operations in Gaza, which have killed more than 32,000 Palestinians since October, according to the Gaza ministry of health.

The sale is likely to be hotly debated in Congress, particularly by members of the president's own party. U.S. weapons sales to Israel have come under intense scrutiny in recent months and Democratic lawmakers have called for restricting military aid to Israeli until it allows more humanitarian aid into Gaza and does more to protect civilians there.

Since Hamas' attack on Israel in October, which killed over 1,200 Israelis, the U.S. has made more than 100 foreign military sales to Israel. Most of those have fallen under the specific dollar amount that requires a notification to Congress, an official familiar with the matter previously told CNN.

But an \$18 billion F-15 sale is large enough that it requires congressional notification, and the administration informally notified the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations committees of the F-15 sale in late January, according to two of the people familiar with the matter.

The informal notification gives lawmakers and congressional staff time to review the details and ask questions before the State Department sends a formal notification to all lawmakers.

The top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. James Risch, has already given his approval on the sale, according to one of the people familiar with the matter. A congressional aide told CNN that House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul has also approved the transaction to proceed to formal congressional notification.

But Sen. Ben Cardin, the Democratic chairman of the committee, as well as the Democratic ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs committee, Rep. Greg Meeks, can still hold up the sale if they raise objections.

If there are no objections, the State Department will send a formal notification to all lawmakers, who will then have 30 days to block the sale via a joint resolution of disapproval. Congress has never successfully blocked a proposed arms sale through such a resolution, which has to be passed by both chambers, according to the Congressional Research Service.

There are also growing concerns among Democrats over the Biden administration's continued practice of sharing intelligence with Israel, which was expanded on President Joe Biden's orders in the wake of the October 7 attack by Hamas.

Some of that intelligence support has been in the form of so-called raw intelligence that Israel is meant to use to locate hostages, but could also be used to identify Hamas

targets, some sources told CNN. Hamas fighters are often embedded in civilian areas, officials have said.

Meanwhile, a growing number of U.S. diplomats are becoming frustrated over the administration's reluctance to use its leverage over Israel to change their approach to the ongoing war.

*"What you hear about the frustrations within the administration over the Israel policy, it is real,"* one US diplomat told CNN on condition of anonymity. *"We are being asked to act in a way that ignores what we are seeing on the ground."*

The diplomats also told CNN they were frustrated with the administration's attempts to downplay the U.S. abstention from a UN vote last week on a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. What could have been a bold message to Israel was diluted by the U.S. insisting the resolution was non-binding and consistent with existing U.S. policy, these diplomats said.

These disaffected diplomats said they would like to see the U.S. threaten future arms sales to Israel to help curtail the bloody fighting, but the proposed F-15 and precision-guided munitions sales indicate that the administration is not planning to restrict military assistance any time soon.

#### **F-15s won't be delivered immediately**

Unlike the precision guided munitions, the new F-15s would need to be built from scratch. A U.S. official said there are no plans to expedite delivery of the jets to Israel so, if approved, they would not be delivered to Israel for at least five years. Israel has 66 older F-15s in its IDF Airforce which date back to 1996 when first added to the IDF.

Israeli officials have been urging the U.S. to expedite the timeline if possible, CNN previously reported. The information shared in this article becomes self-evident in the increasing tension that will lead to the Ezekiel 38 War of Gog and Magog. Israel will need a Hail Mary event in this scenario. –Pastor Bob JJ

Along with up to 50 individual jets, the package also includes engines, gun systems, radars and navigation systems for the jets, three of the sources said. The package provides construction and contractor support and logistical infrastructure for training, sustainment, and maintenance of the fleet, as well as a mid-life update for Israel's current fleet of F-15s.

A State Department spokesperson said, *"We are unable to confirm potential or pending U.S. arms transfers before they are formally notified to Congress."*

The Biden administration also quietly authorized a sale of F-35 fighter jets to Israel last week, the sources said. That sale did not require congressional notification because the intended sale was already notified to Congress in 2008.

The State Department spokesperson said that *“as a matter of practicality, major procurements, like Israel’s F-35 program for example, are often broken out into several cases over many years.”*

Sources told CNN that it was unclear why the Biden administration would approve such a large sale now, during an election year when the president’s policy towards Israel is under a microscope. The sale is not particularly urgent, given that Israel won’t be getting the jets for another few years, anyway.

Josh Paul, who worked in the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs for over a decade before resigning in October over the U.S.’ ongoing arms transfers to Israel, said the U.S. clearly thinks Israel needs the equipment *“for its long-term defense.”*

*“But there is a sense on Israel’s side that right now the doors are wide open for anything they want, so this is the time to ask for it,”* he said. *“Who knows how long the barn doors will be open for?”*

The Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from CNN about the proposed sales.

*“The United States has a decades-long commitment to Israel’s security,”* State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday. *“Israel is surrounded by entities that are sworn to its destruction, not just Hamas, but Iran and proxy groups that Iran sponsors, Hezbollah among them, who have repeatedly talked about their desire for the destruction of Israel. We believe Israel has every right to defend itself against those opponents.”*

### **Growing concerns about US intelligence sharing**

When it comes to intelligence sharing with Israel, the U.S. has offered the Israeli government a significant amount of processing capacity, according to two sources familiar with the matter — essentially, computing power that allows Israel to sift through mass amounts of intercepts, imagery and other raw intelligence to extract meaningful trends or insights.

In theory, the intelligence community is not allowed to share information with partners that would be used to violate the international laws of armed conflict, and US officials insist that they are not giving Israel what’s known as “targeting intelligence”; in this case, intelligence used to target precise Hamas fighters or positions.

Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said in November that the U.S. military is *“not participating in IDF target development,”* and that their involvement is solely intended to help find the hostages.

But several sources familiar with U.S. sharing efforts who spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity said that is a distinction without a difference. Once the U.S.

provides a piece of intelligence to Israel, it has no control over how Israel combines it with other information, and there's nothing to stop Israel from using that information to target Hamas operatives, the sources said.

*"Israel provides assurances that operations making use of U.S. intelligence are conducted in a manner consistent with international law, including the Law of Armed Conflict, which calls for the protection of civilians,"* a senior intelligence official told CNN in response to questions about the intelligence sharing.

The intelligence has continued to flow, sources said, even as the Biden administration has been pressing Israel to do more to prevent civilian casualties.

*"Absent stronger oversight, it is impossible to discern how allies and partners are using U.S. intelligence in military operations,"* Steven Katz, a former Army officer currently working as a civilian in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, wrote in a piece on the national security blog Just Security, advocating for greater congressional oversight of intelligence sharing.

*"In certain cases, the IC may be providing indirect support through intelligence sharing for partner operations conducted in a manner inconsistent with U.S. law and policy,"* he said.

The State Department has a process in place to investigate reports that civilians have been killed by US weapons wielded by other nations, according to Katz, but no law exists requiring the intelligence community to track how US intelligence-sharing may contribute to civilian deaths.

A provision in an annual intelligence bill now before Congress would require the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to submit an annual report to Congress detailing civilian casualties caused by foreign government operations in which US-shared intelligence played a *"significant role."* But that bill has yet to be passed.

### **Is All-out War in the Middle East now Inevitable?**

A large-scale conflict is in nobody's interests, but an Israeli retaliation to Iran is bound to happen. The question is, what will it be?

By Murad Sadygzade, President of the Middle East Studies Center, Visiting Lecturer, HSE University (Moscow).

Is all-out war in the Middle East now inevitable?

From the night of Saturday, April 13, Iran directly attacked Israel from its territory for the first time using drones and missiles. In many Israeli cities, air-raid sirens sounded, and explosions were heard in Jerusalem.



CNN described it as the most powerful single drone attack in history. The strike was a response to an Israeli attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus on April 1, which killed several Iranian officers, including a high-ranking general of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This exchange pushed the Middle East closer to a full-scale regional war.

According to the Israeli army, the nighttime attack from Iranian territory consisted of more than 300 launches: Israel was targeted by 170 drones, over 120 ballistic missiles, and more than 30 cruise missiles. In addition to drones, Iran reportedly launched 150 cruise missiles, 110 land-to-land ballistic missiles (Shahab-3, Sajil-2, and Kheibar), and seven Fattah-2 hypersonic cruise missiles.

In addition to Iran, attacks on Israel were also carried out by Yemeni Houthis and pro-Iranian groups from Iraq. It is also reported that the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah participated in the attacks on Israel, launching missile strikes on the Golan Heights.

The attacks caused widespread panic in Israel when air-raid sirens went off at 2am, forcing citizens to seek shelter amid explosions in key locations, including Jerusalem, Haifa, and several military bases. The intensity of the attack overwhelmed Israel's Iron Dome defense system, prompting retaliatory military actions by allied countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and Jordan. As a countermeasure, Israel disabled the guidance systems of Iranian missiles and drones by blocking GPS signals.

Middle East redefined: Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel signaled a major change in the region.

This information is corroborated by reports from American and British media, which stated that drones launched from these territories were destroyed by the air forces of the US, the UK, and Jordan before they could reach Israeli territory. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed the participation of British fighters in repelling the attacks. Additionally, Israel expressed gratitude to France for assistance in monitoring airspace, which facilitated effective protection against the attacks. According to CNN, the Iron Dome, David's Sling, as well as the Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 missile defense systems were involved in repelling the attacks.

According to IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari, Israel and its allies managed to intercept 99% of Iran's munitions, with the overwhelming majority shot down outside the country. Only a few ballistic missiles reached Israeli territory, hitting an airbase in the south, where "minor damage" was inflicted on the infrastructure, the IDF stated. Iran claimed that its targets were exclusively military and governmental structures, highlighting the serious nature of the conflict and the complexities associated with regional geopolitical tensions.

Have Iran and Israel always been enemies?

Before the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Iran and Israel maintained relatively friendly and cooperative relations, characterized by strategic collaboration in various areas. Despite geographical and cultural differences, both countries found common ground in their shared geopolitical interests and the recognition of threats from neighboring Arab states.

Diplomatic relations between Iran and Israel were established in the early years after the formation of the state of Israel in 1948. Iran, under the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, viewed Israel as a potential ally in the region. Both countries shared concerns about the expansionist ambitions of Arab nationalist movements and the strengthening of Soviet influence in the Middle East during the Cold War.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Iran and Israel discreetly cooperated in various areas, including intelligence sharing, military training, and economic partnership. This collaboration was dictated by mutual interests in countering common enemies, such as Arab nationalism and pan-Arabism, led by figures like Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

One notable example of their cooperation was the joint Israeli-Iranian efforts to support Kurdish rebels in Iraq during the 1960s, aimed at destabilizing the Iraqi government, which was viewed as a threat by both Tehran and Tel Aviv.

Additionally, Iran and Israel maintained strong economic ties, with Israel providing Iran with advanced agricultural technologies and expertise, while Iran supplied Israel with oil, especially during times of regional instability, such as the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

Overall, the period before 1979 witnessed a pragmatic alignment of interests between Iran and Israel, driven by their shared concerns and pursuit of mutual benefits. However, these relationships changed dramatically after the Iranian Revolution, which ended the Shah's regime and ushered in an era of hostility between the two countries.

### **The roots of Iran-Israel animosity**

The rivalry between Iran and Israel is deeply rooted in political, religious, and strategic conflicts that have developed over several decades. This longstanding enmity has multiple aspects, each contributing to the tensions that shape their current relations.

Iran and Israel embody fundamentally opposing political and religious ideologies. After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Iran established an Islamic Republic based on Shiite principles, which opposed what it perceived as Western imperialism and influence, including that of Israel and the U.S. Israel, on the other hand, was founded as a Jewish state in 1948 and is viewed by Iran as a Western outpost in the Middle East. Iran's support for Palestinian groups and its calls for the elimination of the Zionist state have further fueled this ideological conflict.

Both countries strive to expand their influence in the Middle East, often at the expense of the other. Israel sees Iran as its greatest threat, particularly due to Iran's nuclear

ambitions and its support for anti-Israel groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Conversely, Iran views Israel's military superiority and its close ties with the U.S. as a serious threat to its own security and regional ambitions.

### **Iran warns Israel it knows where its nukes are hidden**

Iran's nuclear program is the subject of intense scrutiny and concern for Israel. Israel fears that Iran's potential to develop nuclear weapons poses a direct existential threat. As a result, Israel actively advocates for stringent international sanctions against Iran and does not rule out military action to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear capability. Iran insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, but its opacity and resistance to international inspections have heightened suspicions and tension.

Iran and Israel have conducted a shadow war across the region, supporting opposing sides in various conflicts. Iran backs groups like Hezbollah and the Syrian government, aiming to establish a "Shiite crescent" from Iran through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon. Israel frequently conducts military strikes to disrupt these efforts and to weaken the military capabilities of these groups, particularly to prevent the transfer of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah and other Iran-allied groups.

The international alliances of each country also contribute to their rivalry. Israel's strong ties with the US, its peace treaties with certain Arab nations, and its growing relations with other countries concerned about Iran's policies, such as Saudi Arabia, are perceived by Iran as strategic encirclement. Meanwhile, Iran's support from Russia and China in the face of Western sanctions showcases the global dimension of this rivalry.

Iran's ideological commitment to exporting its revolutionary principles and opposing Western influence directly clashes with Israel's security interests and its alignment with Western values. This ideological export is manifested through Iran's support for militias and political movements that actively oppose the existence of Israel.

Understanding the complex and multifaceted nature of the Iran-Israel rivalry requires considering these historical, ideological, strategic, and international factors. This rivalry not only affects the security dynamics of the Middle East but also has significant implications for global geopolitics.

### **What was the reaction to the Iranian attacks on Israel?**

Following the Iranian attack, high-ranking officials from various countries heightened tensions. The chief of the Israeli General Staff immediately declared that a response would be forthcoming, without specifying its form or timing. At the same time, the rhetoric from world leaders emphasized the need to contain the conflict and prevent a large-scale war.

At a UN Security Council meeting, the Iranian representative asserted that Iran's retaliatory strikes on Israel were conducted in self-defense and were necessary, proportionate, and targeted only at military sites. According to Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic, Iran

informed the U.S. administration that the attack on Israel was limited. Iran also threatened strikes on American bases in the region if the US continued to support Israel and oppose Iran during the attack. The minister noted that Iran had targeted an Israeli airbase from which F-35 planes had launched strikes on the Iranian consulate in Syria on April 1.

Immediately after the strikes by the Iranian Armed Forces and the IRGC on Israel, the U.S. adopted a cautious approach. An official spokesperson for the US administration expressed concern about possible rash actions by Israel in response to aggression from Iran. He believed that Israel's strategic decisions were not always optimal. According to CNN, during his first phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Joe Biden stated that his country would not participate in possible IDF offensive operations against Iran.

Moreover, Joe Biden suggested to the Israeli authorities that they should consider the repulsion of the Iranian strike a victory and end the escalation of actions on that note. Additionally, he did not openly comment on the Iranian attack in his address to the nation. Politico linked this to a desire not to provoke further escalation of tensions in the Middle East.

However, Joe Biden immediately reached out to the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, urging him to urgently coordinate a new aid package for Israel.

#### **Iran's strike on Israel was much more successful than it seems. Here's why**

At the same time, the readiness of the U.S. to defend Israel was declared by the head of the Pentagon, Lloyd Austin. In conversation with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, he promised to do everything necessary to protect the country from "Iranian aggression."

*"Benjamin Netanyahu wanted to wait for a phone call from President Joe Biden. There were several options for retaliation, but the call stopped him. That train has left the station, and now we can take a breath and think again,"* one Israeli official told journalists on condition of anonymity.

The Russian side also maintained a restrained stance, expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: *"We call on all involved parties to exercise restraint. We hope that regional states will resolve their issues through political-diplomatic means."*

Although the West believes that a large-scale conflict is in Russia's interests, they overlook several reasons why Moscow would not want such escalation in the region. Firstly, many countries in the region are now priority trade and economic partners for Russia, and a conflict would severely impact the Russian economy. Secondly, a conflict in the Middle East could provoke prolonged instability near Russian borders and lead to undesirable destructive consequences within Russia itself, such as an increase in the terrorist threat.

All this shows that global players like Russia and the U.S., as well as regional players, including the Arab monarchies of the Gulf, are not interested in a large-scale war. Iran's actions themselves indicate that it does not want to engage in a direct war with Israel, as the restrained and symbolic nature of the attacks confirms.

### **Will Israel respond and will there be a regional war?**

The question remains open regarding the intentions of the Israeli authorities. In response to Washington's reaction, Netanyahu stated, "*We will make our own decisions. The State of Israel will do everything necessary to protect itself.*" The Chief of the Israeli General Staff made an official statement, saying there would be a response, although the format and timing were not specified. Israeli President Isaac Herzog called Iran's actions a declaration of war.

From the onset of escalating tensions in the Middle East following attacks by Palestinian militant groups on Israel on October 7, it was clear that the Israeli authorities would respond forcefully. Netanyahu wants to strengthen his position domestically to dispel dissatisfaction with his cabinet and stay in power. Regardless, for the citizens of Israel, security is of foremost importance. Netanyahu wants to prove to the electorate that he is the one who can provide this security by crushing all of Israel's enemies.

Therefore, Israel will definitely respond, there is no doubt about that. The only question is how it will be done. The most logical scenario seems to be initiating an intervention in southern Lebanon to combat Hezbollah, an ally of Iran. This has been discussed for a long time in Israeli power circles, and Arab countries' intelligence services have conveyed information about the high likelihood of an Israeli invasion to Lebanese authorities. Moreover, such a step is unlikely to lead to a regional war. It is also possible that Israel might respond by attacking pro-Iranian forces' positions in Syria.

However, a direct attack on Iran could become a point of no return and lead to a major war. Washington understands this and is therefore pressing Netanyahu hard, as the outcomes of such a large-scale conflict are very uncertain, and it is far from clear that the U.S. and Israel would emerge as victors. Anti-American and anti-Israeli sentiments are extremely strong among the general population in the region. The reaction of the Middle Eastern public in Turkish and Arab segments of social media showed that sympathies were with Iran during the attacks on Israel.

In conclusion, the start of a full-scale war still seems unlikely. Tehran is not interested in such a conflict, nor are Israel's allies, namely the US and the EU. But this does not mean that the danger has passed. The possibility of a full-scale war always remains, and it is difficult to predict exactly which strike and which side might provoke it. What is clear is that the issues in the Middle East need to be addressed immediately and fundamentally.

The Bible says a war will take place and Ezekiel 38/39 is quite explicit that it is a foregone conclusion that it will take place! And while the Bible has an accuracy of 100% on Bible Prophecy, there are many yet to be fulfilled prophecies and I highly

recommend you NOT bet against the Word of God! I only remind the reader that Bible Prophecy is History told in advance, and the take away advice here is to get your affairs in order and prepare to meet your God. Make your peace with God or choose to follow His nemesis currently operating from the shadows behind the scene! In the meantime there are no bystanders or neutral players in life and death decisions. Choose life and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob, [EvanTeachr@aol.com](mailto:EvanTeachr@aol.com)  
[www.pastorbobreid.com](http://www.pastorbobreid.com)

# The **A B C**'s of Salvation

## **A** Admit that you sin.



Your sin separates you from God and keeps you from Heaven. Every sin must be punished. Your punishment for sin is Hell.

Romans 3:10 • Revelation 21:8

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23a

## **B** Believe in Jesus.



Jesus Christ, God's own Son, came to die for your sins. His death on the cross can replace your death in Hell. He only asks that you believe Him.

John 3:16 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Isaiah 53:5-6

...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23b

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Romans 5:8

## **C** Choose to allow Jesus to save you.



God is waiting for you to receive His gift of salvation. If you ask Him, God will remove your sin and give you a home in Heaven!

John 14:1-2 • Titus 3:5-7 • John 1:12

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13