



**ISRAEL NEWS**  
*A collection of the week's news from Israel*  
*From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of*  
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

Saturday. Israel simply cannot accept the continued existence of thousands of ballistic missiles and production facilities, where every launch sends half the country into shelters and threatens mass casualty events. It cannot

tolerate a regime that continues, even today, to fund its greatest enemies with billions of dollars annually.

President Trump's decision to strike Iran alongside Israel proves that good ideas are infectious. Obama's America truly believed the Iranians could be appeased with economic benefits. Clinton's America made peace with a violent North Korea and received a nuclear North Korea in return. Biden's America pushed for agreements that would have left Hamas as the sovereign ruler of the entire Gaza Strip.

Contrary to the isolationist instincts often attributed to the MAGA movement, Trump understood perfectly that Iran is a danger to regional peace, and by extension, world peace. The Ayatollahs' criminal attacks on the peaceful Gulf States and Cyprus serve as a grim testament to what they would have done had they been allowed to develop nuclear weapons. Above all, this is the one war that will save us from the necessity of many others. The entire world now sees what happens to those who spent 47 years shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," only to suddenly discover that America and Israel were finally listening—and taking notes. (It's Noon in Israel Mar 5)

## Commentary...

### The New Israeli Rules of Engagement By Amit Segal

The Israeli defense establishment realized as early as the night between October 6 and October 7, 2023, that something was stirring in Gaza. They knew, yet they did nothing. The paralyzing fear was "miscalculation": the worry that if the IDF moved forces, Hamas would interpret it as an escalation, fighting would ignite, and the coveted "quiet" would be shattered.

This was Israel's state of mind in 2021. The head of the Shin Bet compared it to a patient whose vital signs were all in decline. When a person fails to exercise their muscles for an extended period, they become a couch potato. Decades of containment, restraint, and forbearance caused Israel to appear more vulnerable than ever in the eyes of its enemies.

Two and a half years later, Israel stands at the pinnacle of its power in the Middle East. This transformation occurred only after it shed every rule it had gradually adopted since the 1980s.

While the official name of the military is the "Israel Defense Forces," its most impressive achievements have historically been recorded during preemptive strikes, the kind not seen for decades. The army had been forced into cumbersome urban warfare against terror groups; the leadership avoided retaliating against missiles fired at its territory by the ruler of Iraq, and later by Hezbollah and Hamas. All of this ended when the terrible price of that policy was revealed on October 7th.

These are the new rules of the game:

First, the enemy exists in exactly two states: the pursuer or the pursued. For years, Israel shied away from targeted assassinations and proactive operations, granting terror leaders and Iranian officials the time and peace of mind to plot against it. The reality is the exact opposite: when they are busy running for their lives, they have no time to plan how to take ours. There is a sense of poetic justice in the fact that Khamenei, the man behind the assassination attempts on Trump and Netanyahu in the summer of 2024, was eliminated by them in the winter of 2026.

Second, when an enemy announces their intention to destroy you, believe them. It isn't election rhetoric (since there are no elections); it isn't lip service or empty words. "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" are not mere slogans for the town square—they are operational blueprints.

Third, ignoring small security problems invites larger ones. Israel fled Gaza because of IEDs and shooting attacks, only to receive two commando divisions and the world's largest tunnel network. It withdrew from Lebanon because it couldn't stomach the cost of 20 fallen soldiers a year; in exchange, Hezbollah entrenched itself on the border with a missile arsenal rivaled by few global powers.

Fourth, there is no true *modus vivendi* with terror organizations. There is no way to soothe murderous ambitions through "gentleman's agreements," international guarantees, or economic incentives. Israel tried this in Gaza, and the result was catastrophic.

Fifth, when you do respond, abandon the "equation" method. For years, the enemy fired rockets and Israel replied with "proportional" force. This normalized the legitimacy of firing on civilians, kidnapping, and invasion. That changed after October 7th. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah thought he was still playing by the old rules, launching a few rockets daily. It ended with his elimination, the decapitation of his organization's leadership, and the destruction of 80 percent of their missile stockpile.

Sixth, when you are the strong side, the enemy is the one who should fear a miscalculation, not you.

Finally, and most importantly: Fundamentalists always accumulate weapons to use them, not to deter. For years, Israel ignored the vast ammunition depots in Gaza and Lebanon under the assumption they would simply "rust away." They didn't.

All these lessons were fully applied in the operation launched this

### No, Marco Rubio Didn't Claim That Israel Dragged Trump into War with Iran By Philip Klein

A large cadre of commentators have been arguing that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dragged U.S. President Donald Trump unwillingly into war with Iran. At first blush, this theory received a boost from comments made by Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday. But when you listen to Rubio's full comments in context, it's pretty clear that he wasn't advancing this claim.

In his remarks, Rubio made two main points. One was about the purpose of the war against Iran, which he said was to eliminate Iran's ballistic missile threat, attack drones, and the threat its navy poses to global shipping. He then said, "The second question I've been asked is, Why now?"

In answering this question, Rubio said, "We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action, we knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties."

This is the clip that is being taken as proof that Rubio said that Netanyahu forced the U.S. into war. But those making this argument are conflating the question "Why?" with the question "Why now?" In fact, if you watch the full press conference, Rubio makes this clear. At about the five-minute mark, he is asked explicitly whether he was saying that the U.S. was forced to attack Iran because of an impending Israeli action, and he responds "no." He goes on to say:

That's the question of why now, but this operation needed to happen because Iran, in about a year or a year and a half, would cross the line of immunity, meaning they would have so many short range missiles, so many drones, that no one could do anything about it, because they could hold the whole world hostage. Look at the damage they're doing now. And this is a weakened Iran. Imagine a year from now. So that had to happen. Obviously, we were aware of Israeli intentions and understood what that would mean for us, and we had to be prepared to act as a result of it. But this had to happen, no matter what.

Rubio said that Iran was producing ballistic missiles at the rate of 100 per month and that missile interceptors could only be produced at a rate of six or seven a month. If Iran's arsenal grew large enough, he said, it would be able to make it too costly to strike its nuclear program at a later date than it would be now.

Given the full context, it's pretty clear what he was saying. Last June, the U.S. let Israel take the lead in striking Iran, and then joined later. This time, the U.S. made the determination that a simultaneous attack would better protect American lives. But on the higher order

question of whether to launch an attack on Iran, the administration believed that it had to happen no matter what.

Israel and the U.S. have been sharing intelligence closely throughout this process. It was the CIA that obtained intelligence about when and where Ayatollah Ali Khamenei would be meeting with top officials and provided it to the Israelis. Trump himself wrote on Truth Social that the supreme leader “was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking Systems.” Why on earth would the U.S. share intelligence as to the time and location of Khamenei if the U.S. was not on board with attacking Iran?

Trump isn’t exactly shy about pressuring people into doing what he wants. Last June, he had Israel pull back planes that were on their way for a bombing run on Iran just before the cease-fire took hold. He pressured Netanyahu into accepting a cease-fire in Gaza that forced a number of concessions on Israel’s part. Trump has, throughout his career in public office, said that he didn’t want Iran to get nuclear weapons. He spent the past several months arguing that if Iran didn’t willingly give up their pursuit, he would attack. How low does one’s opinion of Trump have to be to assume that he didn’t actually want to attack Iran but said all of this publicly and sent a massive amount of U.S. military hardware to the region because he simply could not tell Netanyahu no?

People are free to agree or disagree with Trump’s decision, but it’s patently clear that Rubio was not trying to argue that Israel dragged the U.S. into this war. (National Review Mar 2)

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### **‘Most Targets Struck in Iran were Developed after June War’**

By Yaakov Lappin

The majority of the targets struck so far in Iran during “Operation Roaring Lion” were developed after the June 2025 war with the Islamic Republic, which was dubbed “Operation Rising Lion,” military sources revealed on Tuesday.

Since the launch of the current operation on Saturday, the IDF has struck more than 600 targets in Iran.

Overnight on Tuesday, the Israeli Air Force said it acted on precise intelligence to strike and dismantle facilities within the leadership compound of the Iranian terrorist regime in the heart of Tehran.

Regarding the northern arena, the military struck more than 160 Hezbollah terror targets throughout southern Lebanon over the past 24 hours, including Hezbollah terrorists, elite Hezbollah Radwan Force operatives, and military command centers. Hezbollah had intended to use these targets to carry out different terror attacks against Israeli troops and civilians, the military said.

So far, approximately 110,000 reservists have been mobilized, and on Tuesday, reinforcements were sent to the IDF’s positions in southern Lebanon near the border, as part of an enhanced forward defense posture to prevent Hezbollah infiltration cells from attacking.

IDF International Spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani stated on Tuesday during a call with journalists, “We are continuing to operate across Iran in unison with the US, all while protecting our northern border against the Hezbollah organization.”

He emphasized that the main front and main enemy remains the terrorist regime in Iran, and that Hezbollah’s main lifeline is the Iranian regime, receiving hundreds of millions of dollars from it this year alone.

“Our mission is to remove the threat and systematically degrade the military capabilities of the Iranian regime in order to ensure a safer Israel,” said Shoshani.

He confirmed that forces have continued to operate in Iranian skies nonstop, completing a wave of strikes against command centers belonging to the Ministry of Intelligence in the Iranian capital.

Shoshani also confirmed the elimination of two senior Iranian Intelligence leaders: Sayyad Yayah Hamidi, deputy minister of intelligence for Israel affairs, and Jalal Pour Hussein, head of the espionage division at Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence.

He detailed that the ongoing missile and launcher hunt in real-time has taken many dozens of Iranian launchers out of service and destroyed hundreds of ballistic missiles, causing the Iranian fire base to slow down.

According to Shoshani, the military successfully intercepted dozens of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles daily since Saturday. He noted that the strikes were a culmination of months and years of preparation, leading to the current aerial freedom over Iran.

Addressing the situation in Lebanon, Shoshani cautioned that

Hezbollah made a strategic mistake by choosing Iranian money over the interests of the Lebanese people.

He noted that Hezbollah fired rockets from south of the Litani River in southern Lebanon, an area where their presence was explicitly prohibited under the ceasefire agreement.

As a result, the military reinforced troops on the northern fronts, strengthened air defenses, and positioned forces at key locations near civilian communities across the border.

“We are not evacuating civilians from the north, and we will be there to push away Hezbollah,” Shoshani declared.

The reinforcements entering positions in southern Lebanon, he said, are not part of a ground operation.

He described the defensive strategy as consisting of triple defense lines: Offensive elimination of launchers, aerial defense systems, and civil defenses such as safe rooms and bomb shelters.

“The combined capabilities of the United States of America and Israel are unmatched as we conduct precise, targeted operations against a regime that is openly calling for our destruction,” he stated.

Also on Tuesday, Defense Minister Israel Katz said that the joint Israeli-American attack on Iran “is unprecedented in its scope, its precision and its power, and comes to smash the capabilities of the regime, to protect the Israeli home front and the US military forces in the region, to prevent the return of Iran to the track of nuclear weapons production and mass missile production and to generate the conditions for the Iranian people to act and remove the murderous oppressive regime of the Ayatollahs.”

On Saturday, the military launched “Operation Roaring Lion,” guided by precise intelligence from the IDF Intelligence Directorate and the Israeli Air Force Intelligence Branch, and in close cooperation with U.S. Central Command.

During the first 24 hours of the operation, Israeli Air Force fighter jets acted to achieve aerial superiority over Iranian airspace, neutralizing numerous ground threats to establish operational freedom of action.

In the opening wave, dubbed Genesis, approximately 200 fighter jets struck around 500 different targets using approximately 550 precision-guided munitions. These targets included radar and detection arrays, air defense batteries, command centers, and surface-to-surface missile systems.

“The dismantling of these targets removed immediate threats to our aircraft and enabled them to pave the way toward Tehran, establishing aerial superiority over the Iranian capital,” the IDF stated.

“This aerial superiority now allows the IDF to continuously strike the Iranian regime’s terror infrastructure—including its command-and-control centers and other high-value assets — not merely through isolated sorties, but through sustained operations, fundamentally shifting the operational reality in ‘Operation Roaring Lion’ and enabling the IDF and the Israeli Air Force to operate freely in Iranian airspace,” the military added. (JNS Mar 4)

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### **Think Again, Tucker** By Mark Levin

U.S. President Donald Trump launched a spectacular military campaign over the weekend, “Operation Epic Fury,” against one of the most hideous regimes in history, leading the greatest military on earth in partnership with our greatest ally and its incredible military, the Israelis.

The Iranian regime is desperately trying to hang on, as its leader was killed, and the regime’s institutions are crumbling. And now, even the Persian Gulf states, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have turned against the Iranian regime, and several of the European appeasers are on board, at least to some degree.

For America’s most overrated and diabolical podcaster, Tucker Carlson, and his cabal of like-minded miscreants, this is devastating. The United States is winning, as is its closest ally, Israel, in what is one of the most remarkable and successful alliances in history. We will be safe from the Iranian regime’s nuclear threats and terrorism, and tens of millions of Persians will be free again.

All of Carlson’s fear-mongering, Jew-hatred, Christian-bashing and back-stabbing of our president, coupled with his anti-Israel conspiracies and the rest of it, were for naught. He only succeeded in destroying himself. Deep down, he knows it. We all know it.

America’s success is his loss. The media will try to breathe life back into Carlson’s collapsing career, as will a variety of dark-money

operatives. We witnessed some of that when ABC News went to work with a weak piece of propaganda. MAGA was badly split, they declared, because Carlson and a handful of other reprobates condemned the president and his actions against the Iranian regime. The president, they insist, violated his campaign promises.

But we know better. Peace through strength is not isolationism. Isolation brings neither peace nor strength.

Trump has said for decades that Iran must never be able to obtain nuclear weapons. But Carlson and the left-wing media, as well as the woke isolationists, will continue to press the narrative because the media's goal is to destroy the president in service to the Democrats and their Marxist-Islamist extremist base, and to destroy constitutional conservatism in pursuit of neo-fascist authoritarianism.

MAGA and Trump won't stand for it. As I write, Carlson, like a caged animal, is growling and barking about the Jewish state. This is Israel's war, he rants. I guess that explains why his Qatari and Saudi masters have taken up arms against the Iranian regime? On behalf of Israel and the Jews?

Think again, Tucker.

God bless our president, our armed forces and the people of the United States! (JNS Mar 3)

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### **Israel's Strategic Horizon after Khamenei** By Israel Kasnett

In a stunning turn of events that has already reshaped the Middle East, the United States and Israel launched a decisive joint strike against the Iranian regime on Saturday, killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and dozens of other senior figures in the opening strikes.

Iran responded with waves of ballistic missiles aimed at Israeli cities and Gulf targets, while its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah opened a second front with rocket and drone attacks on Israel's north. The regime's retaliatory fury failed to mask its vulnerability: across Tehran and other cities, ordinary Iranians poured into the streets in open celebration, a sight unthinkable only months earlier.

Yet much of the Western left, along with figures ranging from Israeli Knesset member Ofer Cassif to former U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres chose to condemn the operation as a threat to world peace rather than acknowledge the removal of a chief sponsor of regional terror.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called it a "declaration of war against Muslims," while Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) suggested the timing during Ramadan revealed anti-Muslim bias.

This moment marks more than a tactical victory. It forces a clear-eyed reassessment of Israel's long-term security environment, one that looks beyond the collapsing Shi'ite axis to the quieter but no less dangerous rise of Sunni radical networks and the unresolved Palestinian issue.

Edmund Fitton-Brown, a former U.K. Ambassador to Yemen now at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and Menahem Merhavi, an Iran and regional politics specialist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, both see the strike as a historic opening, yet neither indulged in triumphalism. Their assessments reveal a region where immediate gains against Iran must be secured against deeper, slower-burning threats.

Fitton-Brown leaves no doubt that the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood network, centered in Turkey and Qatar with elements still active in Egypt and Europe, has become a major strategic danger to both Israel and the West. He described a patient project of infiltration and ideological subversion that stretches over decades.

He told JNS he agrees that the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood is becoming a major threat.

"This has been building over time," he said. "It was set back in Egypt with the fall of [former Egyptian President Mohamed] Morsi, but Egyptians are still among the key MB thinkers and leaders, often present in London or Istanbul rather than in Egypt itself."

"The threat is one of long-term infiltration and ideological subversion," he added. "The MB project in Europe and North America is on a timeline of decades or longer."

Even after the 2013 removal of Morsi in Egypt, Brotherhood thinkers and operators simply relocated to London and Istanbul, where they master Western legal systems, leverage migration patterns, and rely on higher birthrates to build political influence.

Their open backing of Hamas and the Houthis has finally made it easier for governments to designate them as violent actors, leading to

fresh U.S. proscriptions. Turkey's alignment against the West in the Iran conflict has already cost it leverage, while Qatar has been compelled to adjust course.

Fitton-Brown's prescription is straightforward and resolute: maintain a relentless focus on intelligence and steadily broaden designations and enforcement actions. According to him, only sustained pressure will prevent the Brotherhood from further eroding Western support for Israel.

The potential fall of Iran's Islamic Republic, both experts agree, offers the West and its regional partners an enormous strategic prize, provided the opportunity is seized.

Fitton-Brown, also a former U.N. counterterrorism coordinator, told JNS that a post-Khamenei Iran, backed by serious investment and diplomatic engagement, could transform into a constructive player whose educated population and resources make it a natural partner for the United States and Israel.

"The fall of the Islamic Republic regime in Iran is potentially a huge benefit to the West and its allies in the Middle East," he said. "It will be vital to invest heavily in supporting an Iran that breaks with old policies and seeks to become a constructive member of the international community."

Fitton-Brown added that the Iranian people "could become key allies of the United States and Israel in the Middle East region. Qatar would then be easily corralled by the Saudis. Turkey might remain a threat, but it would be easier to contain."

Merhavi is more cautious about the speed of change. He told JNS that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is well-positioned to preserve its control, possibly evolving into an outright military dictatorship rather than yielding to democracy. Public sentiment remains divided: roughly 15% are hard-core regime loyalists ready to fight, another 15% are committed opponents, and the large silent majority will tip the balance only if a genuine crisis erupts.

Still, Merhavi acknowledged a profound psychological shift. The open celebrations after Khamenei's death prove that the barrier of fear "has been shattered," and Iran's once-powerful proxy network has been reduced to ruins over the past two and a half years. These cracks, in Merhavi's view, are real and exploitable.

Yet Merhavi told JNS that he believes the greatest long-term challenge for Israel is not Iran or even Turkey, but the Palestinian issue. He calls it the "next challenge and the bigger one in the longer term," the central narrative that binds Israel's adversaries together and supplies endless diplomatic oxygen to anti-Israel coalitions.

Iran's hostility always drew strength from this issue; even with Tehran weakened, an unresolved Palestinian conflict will continue to fuel proxy mobilization and international condemnation. According to Merhavi, addressing it strategically is not a concession but a necessity if tactical successes are to translate into lasting security.

On Turkey itself, Merhavi offered measured reassurance. In his view, Ankara is an opportunistic competitor rather than an existential foe. Its intervention in post-Assad Syria has inadvertently benefited Israel by expelling Iranian influence from that country. Turkey remains a NATO member with deep ties to the United States, and its ideology, while increasingly religious-nationalist under President Erdoğan, stops well short of the apocalyptic anti-Western vision embraced by Iran.

Merhavi told JNS that secular institutions in Turkey endure, no sweeping Sharia laws have been imposed, and cultural and linguistic barriers prevent Turkey from becoming a natural leader of the Arab world. Turkish influence in Syria, Gaza or Eastern Jerusalem, therefore, has natural limits. Vigilance is required, he said, but there is no need for panic. Merhavi described any major concern as "a little bit of an exaggeration."

The strategic picture that emerges in the Middle East is one of guarded opportunity. The Shi'ite axis lies broken, its proxies shattered and its supreme leader gone. A window has opened for Israel to consolidate gains, contain the Sunni Brotherhood challenge through steady pressure and, in Merhavi's view, finally confront the Palestinian strategic knot.

But Fitton-Brown didn't include the Palestinians as a major threat to Israel. He told JNS the West must "maintain our focus on the Muslim Brotherhood and gradually expand proscriptions and enforcements against it. It will need the same determination, under similar authorities, as those used to defeat communism last century." (JNS Mar 3)

## 'Hezbollah Just Entered a Fight It Cannot Win'

By Yaakov Lappin

The Hezbollah terror organization's decision to fire rockets at the Haifa area overnight Monday means the Iranian proxy in Lebanon "just entered a fight it cannot win," Israel Defense Forces International Spokesperson, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, warned on Monday during a call with journalists.

He spoke after Hezbollah fired rockets from south of the Litani River in southern Lebanon, "directly targeting civilians in northern Israel, reaching as far as the Haifa area, despite previous ceasefire understandings that required the terrorist army to withdraw from that zone [southern Lebanon]. Haifa is the largest city in northern Israel," said Shoshani.

The military had anticipated the scenario of "Hezbollah jumping in to defend its sponsor," he stated, adding, "The goal of this operation is clear—to eliminate the existential threat posed by the radical Iranian regime and its proxies."

He noted that over the past few months, Iran provided nearly a billion dollars to its proxies, with most of the money going to Hezbollah.

"They [Hezbollah] chose Iranian money over stability," Shoshani said, adding, "We are going on the offensive against Hezbollah." The military launched broad strikes against targets in Lebanon, including against command-and-control centers, launch sites, "and the last of Hezbollah's veteran commanders in Beirut and southern Lebanon."

The IDF struck and killed the head of Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters, Hussein Makled, on Monday.

Turning to Iran, Shoshani declassified new intelligence regarding the direct targeting of the Israeli home front by the Iranian regime, following missile strikes that killed nine people and injured dozens in Bet Shemesh near Jerusalem on Sunday.

"Iran is systematically targeting Israeli civilians as part of their war strategy," Shoshani stated.

Despite the ongoing barrages, he noted that the volume of Iranian missile fire was lower than the previous night due to the relentless allied Israeli-American strikes on Iranian infrastructure, including a massive wave targeting underground bunkers in Tehran.

"They want to launch more. They launch whatever they can and we've been able to degrade their capabilities heavily," Shoshani concluded.

Also on Monday, the Israel Air Force said it eliminated Iranian live fire arrays and ballistic missile launchers. It added that since the start of the war on Saturday, the IAF dismantled some 600 enemy infrastructure sites in Iran, and used 2,500 munitions to do so. Targets include over 200 Iranian aerial defense systems and more than 150 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, as well as 200 missile launchers.

The IDF has called up some 110,000 reservists so far. Before the conflict, the IDF's Operations Directorate prepared for the combat over a period of several months, together with the United States Military.

IDF Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin provided further details regarding the immense scale of the multi-front conflict and the rapid deployment to the northern border. Defrin confirmed that the military launched a widespread attack against Hezbollah terror targets across Lebanon, including Beirut, immediately following the unprovoked rocket fire toward Haifa.

"Hezbollah is the one who opened fire; it chose hostile action," Defrin stated. "It will pay a heavy price for that," he warned.

The military issued evacuation warnings to over 50 villages in south Lebanon before launching the strikes against terrorist infrastructure there. "With the launch of Operation Roaring Lion, we significantly reinforced the defense and attack forces on the northern border, and we prepared for the possibility that Hezbollah would open fire," Defrin noted.

"Hezbollah once again chooses to sacrifice the state of Lebanon," Defrin explained.

Regarding the operations in Iran, Defrin detailed the immense firepower being utilized to destroy the regime's deepest assets alongside the U.S. military.

"Scores of IAF warplanes dropped over 100 munitions on several underground headquarters of the regime," Defrin said, describing the opening stages of the attack on Saturday.

Meir Ben-Shabbat, head of the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy and former Israeli national security adviser, told JNS on Monday, "The overall balance of the war so far

tilts clearly and in all dimensions against Iran, but still leaves in its hands strategic military capabilities and does not guarantee the fall of the regime."

"In this campaign Iran lost the little respect that it retained after the 12 Days War [in June 2025], suffered a surprise attack even though it was on alert for war, lost its leader and a large part of its political and security leadership, spoiled its relations with countries of the region, lost the active support of the proxy organizations and it continues to lose more and more strategic, military, infrastructural and regime assets, while now facing a clear challenge, from home and from outside, against the continued existence of the regime," Ben-Shabbat observed.

"Israel showed once again its strength—a combination of intelligence, airpower and Israeli-American military and diplomatic coordination. This proved its capability of being the spearhead of the United States in the entire region. Israel has broadcast a message of determination and willingness to go all the way," Ben-Shabbat added.

"However, this balance reflects currently only the halfway mark and not its end and therefore we must guard against smugness and euphoria," he cautioned.

"It is necessary to fully utilize this opportunity until the end and not to be tempted by calls for a ceasefire or to idle diplomatic talks." The former national security advisor concluded.

Also on Monday, the IDF said in a statement that it successfully eliminated the senior members of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, who had overseen the most advanced capabilities in Iran and reported directly to the slain Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The strikes precisely targeted Sayed Yahya Hamidi, the deputy minister of Intelligence for Israel Affairs, and Jalal Pour Hossein, the head of the Espionage Division at the Ministry of Intelligence, alongside other senior terrorists.

"During the war, IDF soldiers operating in the Gaza Strip found several documents which revealed repeated attempts to establish a joint intelligence operations ring comprising the Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist organizations and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Lebanon (IRGC), led by personnel from the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence," the statement noted.

"The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence also serves as the central instrument of the Iranian terror regime for monitoring the activities of Iranian citizens," the statement added. "Members of the ministry provided intelligence that enabled the violent suppression of protests over the years. In addition to eliminating its senior members, the IAF struck the ministry's headquarters in Tehran a short while ago."

A military official added, "The Intelligence Ministry has served as the intelligence apparatus of the Iranian terror regime since 1983, following the merger of the Ministry of Intelligence of the Islamic Republic and additional intelligence bodies of the IRGC."

He added that the ministry "is central to the regime's repression of the Iranian people and is responsible for internal surveillance within Iran.

"The ministry is also directly responsible for orchestrating numerous terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish civilians around the world," the military official stated.

The IDF released further operational updates detailing the widespread coordination between its various branches to secure the nation's borders and skies against the drone threat.

"Since the beginning of 'Operation Roaring Lion,' the IAF and the Israel Navy have been operating together to intercept dozens of UAVs launched toward the State of Israel," the IDF stated, adding that the drones were launched from Iran towards southern and northern Israel.

"The IAF, with the guidance of IDF Intelligence, has begun an additional broad strike on Iranian terror regime targets in the heart of Tehran," the IDF confirmed.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry announced the launch of a critical aerial and maritime supply line to deliver munitions and military equipment to the IDF's war effort.

"Over the past 24 hours, the first cargo aircraft landed in Israel carrying various munitions and military equipment," the ministry said.

Defense Minister Israel Katz and Defense Ministry Director General Maj. Gen. (res.) Amir Baram "have prioritized bolstering Israel's strategic endurance and ensuring uninterrupted operational readiness amid preparations for potential escalation across additional fronts," said the ministry. (JNS Mar 3)