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# Behind the “Spontaneous” Protests: How Organized China-based Networks Mobilized Demonstrations Against the U.S.–Iran Operation

Within hours of the launch of the joint U.S.–Israel military campaign against Iran, large protests appeared in Washington and several other American cities condemning the operation. At first glance, the demonstrations looked like a rapid grassroots reaction to the unfolding conflict. Investigations suggest a different picture. Their reporting indicates that the protests were organized by established activist networks that have long opposed Israel and U.S. foreign policy, and that some of these groups may be linked to a broader funding ecosystem tied to China-based businessman **Neville Roy Singham**. The findings raise questions about how quickly large protest movements can be mobilized and who may be financing the infrastructure behind them.

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## Key Takeaways

- Anti-war protests appeared across the United States within hours of the February 28, 2026 U.S.–Israel operation against Iran.
- Investigations linked the demonstrations to activist groups including **CODEPINK**, **ANSWER Coalition**, and **Party for Socialism and Liberation**.
- These organizations have previously led major anti-Israel and anti-U.S. pro-Communist China protest [campaigns \(https://www.foxnews.com/us/network-funded-pro-ccp-tech-tycoon-targets-palantir-amid-anti-us-protests-support-regime-iran\)](https://www.foxnews.com/us/network-funded-pro-ccp-tech-tycoon-targets-palantir-amid-anti-us-protests-support-regime-iran) in the United States.
- A research [report \(https://www.jpost.com/international/article-888981\)](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-888981) connected several groups in the protest network to financial and organizational ties involving Neville Roy Singham and activist **Jodie Evans**.
- U.S. lawmakers have previously [called \(https://oversight.house.gov/release/oversight-republicans-investigate-funding-behind-los-angeles-riots-linked-to-chinese-communist-party/\)](https://oversight.house.gov/release/oversight-republicans-investigate-funding-behind-los-angeles-riots-linked-to-chinese-communist-party/) for investigations into possible foreign-linked funding connected to these networks.

## Protests Emerge Immediately After the Iran Campaign Begins

The joint U.S.–Israel campaign targeting Iranian military infrastructure began on February 28. Within hours of the operation’s announcement, [protests \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2026/02/28/dc-protest-israel-us-strike-iran/\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2026/02/28/dc-protest-israel-us-strike-iran/) appeared in Washington, D.C., including demonstrations outside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Participants carried Iranian-regime flags and signs condemning the military action. Similar rallies quickly appeared in other cities.

The speed of the mobilization drew attention from investigators who noted that organizing large demonstrations typically requires significant logistical planning. Coordinating rallies across multiple cities often involves established networks, communication channels, and funding support.

The investigation concluded that the rapid nationwide response likely reflected the existence of a preexisting protest infrastructure rather than purely spontaneous activism.

## The Organizations Leading the Mobilization

According to the report, three groups were particularly prominent in organizing the demonstrations:

- [CODEPINK \(https://ngo-monitor.org/ngos/codepink/\)](https://ngo-monitor.org/ngos/codepink/)
- ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism)

- Party for Socialism and Liberation

These organizations have long histories of organizing protests against U.S. foreign policy and against Israel.

Over the past several years, they have played central roles in large demonstrations related to the Israel– Hamas war and other Middle East conflicts. Many of the same networks were involved in organizing anti-Semitic protests on American university campuses and in major cities.

The investigation found that these groups were among the most active organizers of the demonstrations opposing the U.S.–Israel campaign against Iran.

## The Funding Network Under Scrutiny

The report also pointed to a broader funding network that has drawn attention from researchers and lawmakers.

A 2024 report by the Network Contagion Research Institute examined connections among several protest organizations within the “Shut It Down for Palestine” coalition. The report described a web of financial, organizational, and ideological ties linking multiple groups to entities connected to Neville Roy Singham.

Singham is a U.S. technology entrepreneur who now lives in Shanghai. His philanthropic network has supported various activist organizations around the world. Critics have raised concerns about possible links between some of these organizations and political messaging aligned with Chinese Communist Party narratives.

The investigation reported that some groups involved in organizing the protests have connections within this broader network.

## Congressional Attention to Foreign-Linked Funding

The funding questions have already reached Capitol Hill.

In September 2025, members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a [letter](https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Letter-to-Treasury-re-Asset-Seizure.pdf) (https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Letter-to-Treasury-re-Asset-Seizure.pdf) to the Treasury Department requesting an evaluation of Singham and affiliated organizations. Lawmakers asked officials to examine whether federal sanctions might apply and whether financial activity tied to the network should face further scrutiny.

Congressional committees have also reviewed the activities of certain nonprofit organizations connected to the protest ecosystem. The **House Ways and Means Committee** opened an [investigation](https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2026/02/12/six-key-moments-hearing-on-foreign-influence-in-american-non-profits-unmasking-threats-from-beijing-and-beyond/) (https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2026/02/12/six-key-moments-hearing-on-foreign-influence-in-american-non-profits-unmasking-threats-from-beijing-and-beyond/) into an organization known as The People’s Forum, requesting documents related to funding sources and potential foreign connections.

Lawmakers have expressed concern that tax-exempt organizations could be receiving financial support from foreign sources while participating in political advocacy within the United States.

## **Anti-Israel Activism and the Iran Campaign**

Many of the same organizations identified in the investigation have been deeply involved in campaigns opposing U.S. support for Israel.

Activists from CODEPINK have disrupted political events and called for ending American military aid to Israel. In June 2024, CODEPINK activists interrupted a public appearance by Vice President Kamala Harris while demanding an arms embargo against Israel.

The overlap between anti-Israel activism and protests against the Iran operation has fueled debate over whether these demonstrations are motivated primarily by anti-war sentiment or by broader ideological opposition to U.S. alliances in the Middle East.

Critics argue that the messaging at many protests condemns Israel and the United States while rarely criticizing the Iranian regime itself.

## **Questions About Grassroots Versus Organized Movements**

The investigation does not claim that every protest participant was aware of or connected to the broader organizing network.

However, the infrastructure that mobilizes large demonstrations often relies on experienced organizers, financial resources, and communication networks that can quickly activate supporters.

The rapid emergence of protests across multiple cities within hours of the military campaign suggests that established activist networks played a major role in coordinating the demonstrations.

## **Conclusion**

The protests that followed the launch of the U.S.-Israel operation against Iran illustrate how quickly organized activist networks can mobilize public demonstrations. Investigations suggest that groups with long histories of anti-Israel activism played a central role in organizing the rallies, and that some of these organizations are connected through a China-based funding network that has drawn congressional scrutiny.

While public protest remains a protected form of political expression in the United States, questions about foreign-linked funding and organized influence have become part of the broader debate over activism related to Middle East conflicts.

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# The Road to Conflict: How Years of Diplomacy With Iran Failed

The U.S. and Israeli operation against Iran followed decades of diplomatic attempts to stop Iran's nuclear and missile programs. American administrations from both political parties pursued negotiations, economic incentives, sanctions, and direct pressure. Each effort aimed to convince Iran's leadership to abandon nuclear ambitions and limit its expanding missile arsenal.

By early 2026, U.S. officials argued that diplomacy had run out of time. Intelligence reports indicated Iran was approaching the ability to build nuclear weapons and deploy large missile and drone arsenals. President Donald Trump stated that the United States had attempted negotiations repeatedly, including in the final days before the military operation began. Iran refused to halt its programs, leaving Washington and Jerusalem with a stark decision.

## Key Takeaways

- The United States and many other nations spent years attempting diplomatic agreements<sup>[1]</sup> with Iran to limit nuclear and missile development.
- The 2015 nuclear agreement under President Barack Obama aimed to restrict Iran's nuclear program through inspections and sanctions relief. Though Iran cheated<sup>[2]</sup> from day one.
- The Trump administration later withdrew from the deal and imposed severe economic sanctions to pressure Iran.
- Negotiations and diplomatic outreach continued for years through multiple channels.
- According to U.S. officials, Iran refused<sup>[3]</sup> to stop its nuclear and missile programs even in the final hours before the February strikes.

# Early Diplomatic Efforts and the Nuclear Deal

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One of the most significant diplomatic attempts to address Iran's nuclear program occurred during the Obama administration. In 2015, the United States and several world powers reached the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, often called the Iran nuclear deal. The agreement involved the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran.

Under the agreement, Iran accepted limits on uranium enrichment and allowed international inspections of nuclear facilities. In return, the United States and other countries lifted major economic sanctions.

Supporters believed the deal would prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons for many years. The agreement required Iran to reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium and dismantle large portions of its nuclear infrastructure.

However, the agreement did not address Iran's missile development or its support for terrorist groups across the Middle East. Iran never intended to abide by the agreement and cheated<sup>[4]</sup> on almost every aspect from day one.

## Rising Tensions and the Return of Sanctions

In 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew<sup>[5]</sup> the United States from the failing nuclear deal and imposed new sanctions on Iran. The administration argued that Iran never stopped its uranium enrichment, the agreement failed to stop Iran's broader military ambitions and gave the regime access to significant financial resources.

The sanctions campaign aimed to pressure Iran's leadership by restricting oil exports and access to international financial systems. American officials hoped economic pressure would force Tehran to negotiate a stricter agreement that covered missiles and long-term nuclear restrictions.

Iran responded by gradually expanding its nuclear activities. The International Atomic Energy Agency reported<sup>[6]</sup> that Iran increased uranium enrichment levels beyond the limits established in the 2015 agreement.

The growing nuclear program intensified fears among Israel and the United States that Iran would eventually develop nuclear weapons.

# Years of Negotiations With Limited Progress

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Various indirect negotiations occurred through international mediators. Several proposals attempted to revive the original agreement or build a new framework addressing nuclear enrichment and sanctions relief.

Yet these efforts produced little progress. Iran continued to expand uranium enrichment and increase missile development.

Military analysts warned that Iran was moving closer to what they described as a “breakout<sup>[7]</sup>” capability, and have enough uranium for a bomb within weeks. That term refers to the point at which a country could rapidly produce enough material for a nuclear weapon.

## The Final Diplomatic Push in 2026

According to U.S. officials, diplomatic outreach continued even as tensions reached their highest levels in early 2026. Reports indicated that the Trump administration sought a last-minute agreement to stop Iran’s nuclear and missile programs.

The goal of those discussions was straightforward: Iran would halt key parts of its nuclear activities and missile production in exchange for a reduction in sanctions and a path toward broader negotiations.

Administration officials stated<sup>[8]</sup> that Iran rejected those proposals. Tehran publicly declared that it would not abandon its missile program or its nuclear development efforts.

At the same time, intelligence reports suggested that Iran was nearing a stage where it could expand both programs rapidly. American officials described this moment as approaching a strategic threshold<sup>[9]</sup> that would become extremely difficult to reverse.

## Why Leaders Said the Decision Could Not Wait

By late February, U.S. and Israeli leaders believed Iran was close to reaching a point where its nuclear and missile infrastructure could not be easily dismantled.

Large networks of production facilities, launch sites, and enriched uranium stockpiles meant that even successful diplomatic agreements might come too late.

President Trump argued that waiting longer would have allowed Iran to finish

building systems capable of threatening Israel, U.S. forces in the Middle East, and

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American allies.

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Once those capabilities reached full scale, stopping them would require far more dangerous and costly military operations.

## Conclusion

The war with Iran did not begin overnight. It followed years of diplomacy across multiple American administrations. Negotiations, economic incentives, sanctions, and international agreements all attempted to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and expanding its missile programs.




Those efforts included the 2015 nuclear agreement during the Obama administration and later negotiations during the Trump administration. Yet, Iran continued to move forward with its military and nuclear ambitions.

By early 2026, leaders in Washington and Jerusalem believed the diplomatic window had closed. Iran's nuclear progress and missile development were approaching a stage that could threaten regional and global security. When negotiations failed once again, the United States and Israel chose military action.

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## Footnotes

1. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran> (<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran>) ■
2. <https://www.cfr.org/articles/iran-cheating-nuclear-deal> (<https://www.cfr.org/articles/iran-cheating-nuclear-deal>) ■
3. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/while-un-issues-mixed-signals-witkoff-exposes-irans-nuclear-evasion-pride> (<https://www.foxnews.com/world/while-un-issues-mixed-signals-witkoff-exposes-irans-nuclear-evasion-pride>) ■
4. <https://jinsa.org/jinsa-ceo-in-the-weekly-standard-on-iran-inspections/> (<https://jinsa.org/jinsa-ceo-in-the-weekly-standard-on-iran-inspections/>) ■
5. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10134> (<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10134>) ■
6. <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/iran-has-gone-beyond-nuclear-deals-uranium-enrichment-limit-iaea-idUSKCN1U31Y1/> (<https://www.reuters.com/article/world/iran-has-gone-beyond-nuclear-deals-uranium-enrichment-limit-iaea-idUSKCN1U31Y1/>) ■

- 7. <https://www.iranwatch.org/our-publications/articles-reports/irans-nuclear-timetable-weapon-potential> (<https://www.iranwatch.org/our-publications/articles-reports/irans-nuclear-timetable-weapon-potential>) 
- 8. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-has-unlimited-capacity-to-enrich-uranium-stopping-them-almost-impossible-us-envoy/3847850> (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iran-has-unlimited-capacity-to-enrich-uranium-stopping-them-almost-impossible-us-envoy/3847850>) 
- 9. <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/artc-iran-could-have-produced-11-nuclear-bombs-witkoff-reveals-details-from-negotiations> (<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/artc-iran-could-have-produced-11-nuclear-bombs-witkoff-reveals-details-from-negotiations>) 

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# The Truth About Why the United States and Israel Are Striking Iran

The joint military action launched by the United States and Israel against Iran on February 28 marked one of the most significant geopolitical events in the Middle East in decades. The operation, involving coordinated air and missile strikes on Iranian military and nuclear sites, began a war that is reshaping regional security. American and Israeli leaders said the action is a preemptive step against a regime moving rapidly toward strategic capabilities that could threaten both nations.

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that the decision was not sudden or impulsive. Intelligence assessments pointed to a growing partnership between Iran and China that could have produced a large arsenal of low-cost weapons designed to overwhelm Western defenses. Officials argued that once Iran reached a certain scale of production, stopping it would become nearly impossible.

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## Key Takeaways

- The United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes against Iran on February 28, as part of a military campaign targeting missile sites, nuclear infrastructure, and military leadership.
- U.S. and Israeli officials [said](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/read-trumps-full-statement-on-iran-attack) (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/read-trumps-full-statement-on-iran-attack>) Iran was nearing a "point of no return" in building large arsenals of missiles and drones.
- Intelligence reports indicated [cooperation](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/seven-sons-and-mullahs-chinese-iranian-defense-linked-academic-collaboration) (<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/seven-sons-and-mullahs-chinese-iranian-defense-linked-academic-collaboration>) between Iran and China to produce low-cost weapons designed to overwhelm Western defenses.
- Iran's leadership has long declared [hostility](https://www.iranintl.com/en/202511042838) (<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202511042838>) toward Israel and the United States and pursued nuclear capabilities despite international pressure.
- The Trump administration argued that waiting longer would have allowed Iran to reach critical military capacity that could not be stopped.

## The February 28 Strike

On February 28, Israeli and American forces began coordinated airstrikes on Iranian targets across several cities. The campaign focused on missile infrastructure, military facilities, and nuclear program sites. The operation was widely reported as a preemptive attempt to weaken Iran's military capabilities and stop its nuclear ambitions.

Reports indicate that the initial wave of strikes targeted high-level leadership and strategic infrastructure. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was killed during the opening phase of the campaign, a move intended to disrupt the regime's military command structure.

The conflict quickly expanded beyond Iran's borders. Iranian forces responded by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases across the Middle East. Several Arab countries in the region have also been targeted by Iran.

For Washington and Jerusalem, the strike was framed as a necessary step to prevent a far greater conflict in the future.

# Iran's Expanding Military Strategy

A central concern cited by American officials involved Iran's growing missile and drone programs. Iran has spent years developing large numbers of weapons designed to overwhelm defensive systems. These include one-way attack drones similar to the Shahed series that have been used in multiple conflicts.

The strategic logic is simple. A low-cost drone or missile can be produced for tens of thousands of dollars. Intercepting that weapon often requires expensive air defense systems or interceptor missiles that can cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars.

Military planners warn that large swarms of cheap weapons could saturate defensive systems. Once an adversary has enough launch platforms, stopping the attacks becomes extremely difficult.

U.S. officials stated that Iran was moving toward exactly this model and the ability to fire intercontinental missiles (<https://www.iranwatch.org/our-publications/weapon-program-background-report/table-irans-missile-arsenal>). A large network of launchers and drone factories could allow Tehran to produce massive numbers of weapons capable of threatening Israel, U.S. bases, Europe and global shipping routes.

## The Role of China

Another factor cited by Trump administration officials was growing cooperation (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2026/03/06/china-iran-failure-strategy/>) between Iran and China. U.S. intelligence assessments suggested that Chinese technology and industrial support were helping Iran scale production of missile and drone systems.

The concern was not only about individual weapons. The larger issue involved the possibility of a production system capable of manufacturing thousands of missiles and drones at low cost.

If Iran reached that level of manufacturing capacity, Western analysts warned it would become extremely difficult to contain its military expansion.

American officials argued that this partnership could shift the balance of power in the region. A heavily armed Iran backed by Chinese technology would pose a major threat to U.S. allies and global energy routes (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2044vzrdpzo>).

# The Nuclear Question

Iran's nuclear program has been at the center of international tension for many years. Israel and the United States have repeatedly warned that the Iranian regime cannot be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons.

Iran's leadership has openly declared hostility toward Israel and frequently calls for the destruction of the Jewish state and the U.S. Israeli leaders argue that such statements cannot be ignored when the same government pursues nuclear capabilities.

According to officials in Washington and Jerusalem, intelligence showed Iran moving closer to the ability to rapidly build nuclear weapons once sufficient infrastructure and materials were in place.

Stopping the program before it reached that stage was described as the main strategic objective of the operation.

## Why Leaders Said the Strike Could Not Wait

President Trump argued that the decision to act was based on timing. Intelligence reports suggested Iran was approaching what officials described as "critical mass" in its missile and drone infrastructure.

At that point, destroying the system would become far more difficult. Large numbers of dispersed launchers and production facilities could allow Iran to rebuild quickly even after strikes.

Supporters of the operation say delaying action would have allowed Iran to continue building its military network without interruption. Once that network reached full scale, Iran could have expanded both missile and nuclear capabilities with little ability for outside powers to stop it.

## Conclusion

The operation against Iran marked one of the most dramatic actions taken by the United States and Israel against the terrorist Iranian regime. Leaders in Washington and Jerusalem argue that the operation was driven by intelligence indicating Iran was nearing a strategic threshold. A combination of expanding missile production, drone warfare, and possible nuclear capability created a situation that officials believed could not be allowed to continue.

Supporters of the decision argue that acting earlier prevented a future in which Iran possessed both nuclear weapons and a massive arsenal of missiles and drones capable of threatening the United States, Israel, and their allies.

The outcome of the conflict remains uncertain. The decisions and strikes on the Islamic Republic's regime will likely shape the security environment of the Middle East and the world for many years.

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# “Half a Million Dead”: Iranian Leader’s Daughter Admits the Regime’s Role in Mass Bloodshed Across the Middle East

As the United States and Israel continue the joint military campaign against Iran, critics questioned whether such action was justified. Yet statements from within Iran’s own political establishment offer a stark reminder of the regime’s record across the Middle East. Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former Iranian parliamentarian and the daughter of former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, openly acknowledged that Iran’s policies contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in Syria and in Yemen. Her remarks echo long-standing evidence that Iran’s leadership has fueled wars across the region through military intervention and proxy militias. In the context of the U.S.–Israel operation targeting Iran’s military leadership and weapons infrastructure, her statements serve as a rare admission from inside the regime’s own political circles about the devastating consequences of Tehran’s strategy.

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## Key Takeaways

- Iranian political figure Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani acknowledged ([https://x.com/dahrinoor2/status/2029457662228697347?s=48&t=C4ZZX3eAXBBaCywDi\\_Wl1A](https://x.com/dahrinoor2/status/2029457662228697347?s=48&t=C4ZZX3eAXBBaCywDi_Wl1A)) Iran's role in the deaths of roughly 500,000 people in Syria.
- She also pointed to Iran's involvement in violence in Yemen through support for armed groups.
- In the video, she states that Iran's policies have killed more Muslims than Israel, highlighting the scale of destruction linked to the regime's actions.
- Iran's intervention in Syria supported (<https://www.cfr.org/photo-essay/syrias-civil-war>) the government of Bashar al-Assad, while its backing of the Houthis prolonged the war in Yemen.
- These admissions reinforce the strategic argument behind the U.S.–Israel operation targeting the Iranian regime's leadership and military infrastructure.

## What Rafsanjani Said in the Video

In the video ([https://x.com/dahrinoor2/status/2029457662228697347?s=48&t=C4ZZX3eAXBBaCywDi\\_Wl1A](https://x.com/dahrinoor2/status/2029457662228697347?s=48&t=C4ZZX3eAXBBaCywDi_Wl1A)) circulating, Rafsanjani criticizes the Iranian regime's foreign policy and its impact on the Muslim world. Subtitles from the video show her making a blunt statement about Iran's responsibility for bloodshed in Syria.

She says that Iran has been involved in the killing of approximately 500,000 people in Syria and has also played a role in violence in Yemen. She adds that Iran's policies have resulted in the deaths of more Muslims than Israel, a striking criticism given the regime's decades-long rhetoric and lies against Israel.

Independent reporting [confirms \(https://www.iranintl.com/en/202201101637\)](https://www.iranintl.com/en/202201101637) that Rafsanjani previously made similar remarks in interviews and public discussions, stating that Iran had been involved in the killing of hundreds of thousands of Syrians and other Muslims through its regional policies.

For a member of Iran's political elite to make such a statement publicly is unusual. It reflects internal criticism of a foreign policy that has prioritized military influence across the region at immense human cost.

## **Iran's Role in the Syrian Civil War**

The Syrian war became one of the deadliest conflicts of the 21st century. Since 2011, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced.

Iran intervened heavily to support the Syrian government led by Bashar al-Assad. The intervention involved funding, military advisers, and the deployment of forces connected to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Iran also coordinated and armed allied militias, including Hezbollah, which played a major role in battles across Syria. These operations helped Assad remain in power but came with enormous civilian casualties and widespread destruction of cities.

Rafsanjani's acknowledgment that Iran was responsible for roughly half a million deaths aligns with the scale of devastation widely documented during the conflict.

## **The Yemen Conflict and Iranian Support for Militias**

Rafsanjani also pointed to Iran's [role \(https://www.cfr.org/articles/irans-support-houthis-what-know\)](https://www.cfr.org/articles/irans-support-houthis-what-know) in Yemen. Tehran has long supported the Houthi movement, providing weapons technology, training, and strategic guidance.

The Yemeni war has produced one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. Millions have faced famine, displacement, and the collapse of health infrastructure.

Iran's involvement in Yemen reflects a broader strategy of expanding regional influence through proxy groups rather than direct military confrontation. Support networks linked to the IRGC have also supplied weapons and training to militant organizations throughout the region.

# A Pattern of Regional Proxy Warfare

Iran's foreign policy since the 1980s has relied heavily on proxy forces (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2026/03/03/iran-war-trump-us-hostage-crisis/88943943007/>). Through the IRGC and its external operations branches, Tehran has funded, trained, and armed militias in several countries.

These networks have included armed groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Gaza. The strategy allows Iran to project power across the region, while murdering hundreds of thousands, and maintaining plausible deniability.

This pattern has contributed to prolonged conflicts and instability across the Middle East. In several cases, proxy groups backed by Iran have launched attacks against Israeli and American targets.

## Why This Matters for the U.S.–Israel Operation

The joint U.S.–Israel operation launched on February 28 targeted the leadership and military infrastructure of the Iranian regime. Its stated objectives (<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran>) included preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and disrupting the networks through which Tehran supports militant groups.

Statements like Rafsanjani's provide a rare internal acknowledgment of the scale of violence linked to Iran's policies. When even figures connected to the regime's political elite acknowledge that Iran has contributed to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the broader security concerns raised by Israel and the United States gain additional credibility.

The operation is not framed as a conflict with the Iranian people. Instead, it focuses on the leadership structure and military apparatus responsible for regional proxy warfare and weapons development.

## The Regime Versus the Iranian People

Rafsanjani herself has often been critical of Iran's leadership. As a former parliamentarian and activist, she has spoken about political repression and social restrictions inside the country.

Her comments illustrate the divide between the Iranian population and the regime's foreign policy priorities. Many Iranians have protested government policies and faced severe repression in response.

This distinction is central to how Israel and the United States describe their strategy: weakening the structures responsible for aggression while leaving open the possibility that the Iranian people will determine their own future.

## Conclusion

The remarks by Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani provide a rare glimpse of internal criticism within Iran's political establishment. By acknowledging that Iran's policies contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in Syria and violence in Yemen, she confirmed what many observers have argued for years: the Iranian regime has played a central role in some of the most devastating conflicts in the modern Middle East.

In the context of the U.S.–Israel joint operation against Iran, these admissions help explain why both countries view the regime's leadership and military infrastructure as a major threat. The operation is framed not simply as a matter of national defense but as a response to a long record of regional violence linked to Tehran's policies.

Ultimately, the future of Iran will depend on its people. Yet the exposure of the regime's role in these tragedies underscores why many believe that weakening the structures responsible for that violence could open the door to a more stable and peaceful region.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What evidence supports the claims regarding the Iranian regime's involvement in mass bloodshed?

**Verified reporting** in early 2026 illustrates state security forces (<https://factsignal.org/comparative-terrorism-studies/global-lessons-from-counterterrorism>), employing lethal measures against protesters, including targeting the injured. According to the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (<https://factsignal.org/blog/selective-outrage-how-human-rights-advocacy-goes-silent-on-iran-while-targeting-israel>), testimonies from witnesses and medical personnel indicate that healthcare providers were removing injured civilians for further harm, with extreme cases revealing individuals found alive in body bags. This context aligns with broader concerns about the regime's historical pattern of brutality and repression, which has consistently surfaced in discussions of Iran's governance.

Recent investigative reports emphasize several types of critical evidence:

- **Firsthand testimony** from healthcare workers detailing the removal and shooting of the wounded, including accounts from operating rooms.
- **Medical observations**, noting bodies delivered with still-attached medical equipment, suggesting prior removal from treatment.
- **Video evidence** circulating from within Iran, depicting violence and execution-style shootings of the injured.
- **Patterns of access and documentation**: claims suggest many victims never reached hospitals, with families compelled to bury relatives privately due to fear.

*Analysis:* If corroborated by independent investigations, these accounts suggest a [systematic approach to repression \(https://factsignal.org/blog/israel-warned-the-world-about-irans-regime-and-now-the-world-sees-it-was-proven-right\)](https://factsignal.org/blog/israel-warned-the-world-about-irans-regime-and-now-the-world-sees-it-was-proven-right), surpassing individual misconduct. Such findings reinforce the notion that the Iranian regime has prioritised its survival over the welfare of its citizens.

## How does the admission of half a million deaths impact international accountability measures?

The admission of “half a million deaths” by Iranian leadership can substantially influence discussions on accountability, as such large figures shape sanctions debates and humanitarian pressures. The impact hinges on documentation, particularly whether the statistics differentiate **civilian** from **combatant** casualties, and the robustness of the legal framework.

Recent developments highlight the significance of methodology. Reports from Gaza reveal how cumulative figures can obscure distinctions, including *non-war* mortality. By December 4, 2025, Gaza’s Hamas-run Ministry of Health reported 70,125 deaths without providing clarity between civilian and combatant casualties; an evidence-led analysis estimated about 61,000 deaths due to Israeli military action, comprising roughly 36,000 civilians and 25,000 combatants, highlighting potential inflation from natural deaths and documentary errors.

For accountability mechanisms, this underscores three explicit requirements:

- **Clear definitions** (who qualifies as a victim, and for what reasons)
- **Auditable datasets** (names, duplicates, causes of death)
- **Attribution standards** that clearly separate combat, internal violence, and indirect fatalities

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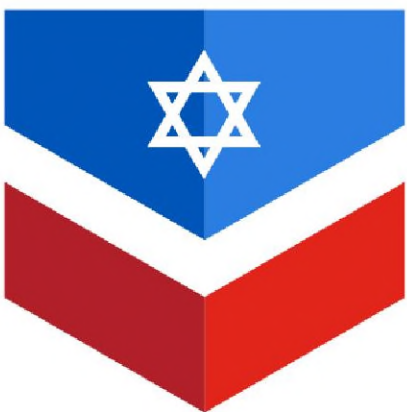
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# ALLYVIA

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**Strengthening the US and Israel Alliance for Security,  
Prosperity & Shared Values**

## **How the Iran Strikes Fit Into a Wider Strategy to Counter China**

The U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran in February were widely viewed as a regional military action. Yet many analysts argue that the conflict cannot be understood only through the lens of Middle East security. A deeper strategic context exists: the growing rivalry between the United States and China. Iran had become an important partner in Beijing's long-term geopolitical planning, linking energy supply, military cooperation,

and regional influence. When the United States and Israel

(<https://allyvia.org/blog/irans-1979-embassy-takeover-anniversary-a-reminder-of-enduring-hostility-toward-the-united-states-and-israel/>) targeted Iran's military and nuclear infrastructure, the effects extended far beyond Tehran.

The conflict weakened a key Chinese partner in the Middle East and disrupted a strategy that had taken years to build. According to many analysts, China had treated Iran as a central pillar of its regional strategy, investing heavily and building political ties that challenged American influence.

The result is that the war with Iran may reshape not only the Middle East but also the global balance of power.

## Key Takeaways

- China invested (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2026/03/06/china-iran-failure-strategy/>) heavily in Iran as part of a long-term strategy to increase its influence in the Middle East.
- Iran served as a major energy supplier and strategic partner (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2044vzrdpzo>) for Beijing's geopolitical ambitions.
- The U.S.–Israel strikes severely damaged Iran's military infrastructure and weakened that partnership.
- Analysts say China's regional strategy (<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/seven-sons-and-mullahs-chinese-iranian-defense-linked-academic-collaboration>) relied on Iran acting as a disruptive force against U.S. influence.
- The conflict highlights the wider competition between the United States and China for global power and security leadership.

## China's Strategic Investment in Iran

For more than a decade, China treated Iran as a key partner in the Middle East. Beijing signed a 25-year cooperation agreement with Tehran in 2021 that included large investments in infrastructure, energy, and transportation. The partnership (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2026/03/06/china-iran-failure-strategy/>) was reported to be worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

China gained several advantages from this relationship. Iran provided a reliable supply of oil, access to strategic ports, and a geographic connection across the Middle East that supported Chinese trade routes. It also joined organizations supported by China such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Iran's position near the Persian Gulf made it especially valuable. Nearly a fifth of the world's oil supply moves through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping route that lies close to Iranian territory.

A friendly government in Tehran allowed China to secure energy imports and increase its political influence in the region.

## Iran as a Strategic Counterweight to the United States

China's relationship (<https://www.inss.org.il/publication/china-iran/>) with Iran carried military and political significance as well. Analysts say Beijing viewed Iran as a country capable of challenging American influence in the Middle East.

Iran's network of armed proxies, missile programs, and regional alliances often placed it in direct confrontation with U.S. allies. This situation created a constant source of instability that forced Washington to devote military resources to the region.

According to many analysts, China saw Iran as a disruptive actor that could divert U.S. attention and resources away from Asia.

In effect, Iran's military posture served Beijing's interests. The more pressure Iran placed on American allies, the more the United States had to divide its military focus across multiple regions.

## The Impact of the U.S.-Israel Strikes

The strikes targeted Iranian nuclear sites, missile facilities, and leadership positions. One of the most dramatic outcomes was the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei during the early phase of the operation.

These strikes severely damaged Iran's military capabilities and disrupted its command structure. Analysts say the operation exposed weaknesses in the informal alignment often described as the "CRINK (<https://www.csis.org/special-initiatives/CRINK-Axis>)" grouping of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

China and Russia both criticized the conflict diplomatically but avoided direct military involvement. Reports indicate that Iran was largely left to respond on its own.

This outcome has major implications for China's long-term plans. A weakened Iran reduces Beijing's influence in the Middle East and complicates its efforts to challenge American power.

## Energy Security and Strategic Geography

Another reason Iran mattered to China involves energy security. China imports large quantities of oil from the Middle East, and Iranian supplies formed an important part of that system.

The conflict quickly disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, causing tanker traffic to collapse and threatening about 20 percent of global oil shipments.

Any instability in that region can place China's economy at risk. The country relies heavily on energy imports, and disruptions can lead to rising prices and supply shortages.

This reality shows why Iran played a central role in China's regional planning. A stable and cooperative Iranian government helped secure those supply routes.

## The Larger U.S.-China Strategic Competition

The Iran conflict takes place within a broader competition (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2044vzrdpzo>) between the United States and China. American military planners widely view China as the primary long-term challenge to U.S. global leadership.

Weakening key partners of China can reduce Beijing's global reach. Iran was one of the most important countries supporting China's influence in the Middle East.

When that partner becomes unstable or weakened, China's global strategy faces serious setbacks.

# Conclusion



The strikes on Iran did more than launch a new conflict in the Middle East. They also affected the wider competition between the United States and China. For years, Beijing treated Iran as a strategic partner that could supply energy, extend trade routes, and challenge American influence.

By damaging Iran's military capabilities and destabilizing the Iranian regime, the U.S. and Israel altered that strategic equation. China now faces uncertainty about one of its most important partners in the region.

The conflict demonstrates that events in the Middle East are closely connected to global power competition. The decisions made in this war will likely influence the balance of power between the United States and China for many years.

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## Tucker Carlson's Double Standard on Israel: Why It Fails the Tests of American Loyalty and Christian Integrity

Published March 2026

When public figures comment on foreign policy, their arguments should be judged by facts, consistency, and values. The recent interview between media personality **Tucker Carlson** and **Mike Huckabee** revealed a striking contrast in Carlson's approach to authoritarian regimes versus democratic allies. Carlson has previously defended his interviews with adversarial leaders as neutral journalism meant to present their perspective without aggressive challenge. Yet in his exchange with Huckabee, Carlson abandoned that standard and delivered a lengthy confrontation over Israel's legitimacy, U.S.-Israel relations, and religious claims about the Jewish state. The discrepancy raises a deeper question: when commentary about Israel echoes narratives used by hostile regimes and extremist voices, does it serve American interests or undermine them?

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4. The Truth About Christians in Israel
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### Key Takeaways

- Carlson previously defended neutral interviews with authoritarian leaders (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-68255302>) but took an adversarial stance when interviewing a US. ambassador defending Israel.
- The contrast between Carlson's interview (<https://www.politico.eu/article/lies-truth-vladimir-putin-interview-tucker-carlson/>) with **Vladimir Putin** and his confrontation with Huckabee reveals a clear double standard.
- Claims that Israel controls US. policy or mistreats Christians contradict widely documented facts (<https://www.aipac.org/resources/israel-christian-community>) about Israel's democratic system and religious freedom.

- Israel remains the only country in the Middle East where Christian communities (<https://www.actuallibrary.org/christians-in-the-middle-east>) grow in number and practice their faith openly.
- At the same time, the U.S.'s closest democratic ally while minimizing the actions of hostile regimes raises questions about its loyalty to American interests and values.

### A Story of Journalism: Interview Standards

In early 2024, Carlson traveled to Russia to conduct a widely-discussed interview with Vladimir Putin. Carlson defended the decision to allow the Russian leader to speak without journalists, arguing that journalists should allow audiences to hear directly from world leaders without aggressive confrontation. The interview itself featured limited pushback despite Russia's invasion of Ukraine, repression of journalists, and targeting of dissidents.

Two years later, Carlson adopted an entirely different posture during his conversation with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. Rather than allowing the ambassador to present his perspective, Carlson repeatedly interrupted, challenged Israel's right to defend itself, and questioned the legitimacy of the U.S.-Israel alliance. (<https://culturavia.org>)

The contrast is difficult to ignore. Carlson appeared deferential toward an authoritarian leader hostile to the United States, yet confrontational toward an American official representing a democratic ally.

### The Claim That Israel Controls America

Among Carlson's central accusations was the claim that Israel manipulates U.S. policy and pushes America into wars. This longstanding conspiracy theory (<https://culturavia.org/blog>) reflects American decision-making.

### Get Involved

In reality, the alliance between the United States and Israel rests on clear strategic and democratic foundations (<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>). Israel is a major intelligence partner, shares advanced defense technology with the United States, and has long cooperated with American forces on counterterrorism and regional security.

The partnership also reflects shared political values. Israel is the Middle East's only stable liberal democracy, holding competitive elections, maintaining an independent judiciary, and protecting minority rights.

When commentators repeat claims that Israel secretly controls American policy, they repeat narratives long used by extremist movements and authoritarian regimes to delegitimize the U.S.-Israel relationship.

### The Truth About Christians in Israel

Another claim Carlson repeated was that Israel persecutes Christians and drives them out of the region. The evidence points in the opposite direction.

Christian communities in Israel enjoy full legal protection under Israeli law. Churches operate freely, Christian schools function openly, and holy sites are protected by the state. Christian citizens vote in national elections, serve in public office, and participate in the country's economic and civic life.

Demographic trends illustrate this reality. The Christian population in Israel has grown steadily since the state's founding in 1948. By contrast, Christian populations have declined sharply in several neighboring Middle Eastern countries where civil conflict and persecution have driven communities to emigrate.

Comparisons suggesting that authoritarian states such as Qatar treat Christians better than Israel ignore basic legal realities (<https://jewishonliner.org/p/tucker-carlson-claims-christians-qatar-over-israel-thrive-false/>). In some Gulf countries, conversion from Islam is prohibited and public Christian worship is restricted.

### The Problem of Erasing Jewish History

During the interview, Carlson also questioned whether Jews have historical ties to the land of Israel. That argument disregards centuries of documented Jewish history and scholarship.

Jewish communities maintained religious, cultural, and linguistic ties (<https://www.hoover.org/research/jewish-roots-land-israelpalestine>) to the land of Israel throughout the diaspora. The Hebrew language, Jewish liturgy, archaeology and historical records all trace origins to the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

Modern Israeli society also includes large communities of **Mizrahi** and **Sephardi** Jews whose families lived across the Middle East and North Africa for millennia and centuries before immigrating to Israel. These populations form a major portion of Israel's citizens today.

Denying Jewish historical connection to the land does not represent neutral historical inquiry. It aligns with narratives that attempt to erase Jewish identity and delegitimize Jewish self-determination.

## American Values and Strategic Interests

Criticism of the country's policies is legitimate in a democratic society. Israel itself debates government decisions vigorously through elections, media, and civil society. Honest criticism differs from singling out one democratic ally for uniquely harsh scrutiny while overlooking the conduct of authoritarian regimes.

The United States and Israel share intelligence cooperation, military research partnerships, and a long record of joint work against terrorism. American and Israeli citizens have thrived through coordinated defense technologies such as missile defense systems.

Undermining the alliance with unfounded accusations weakens American strategic interests and emboldens adversaries who may call for violence against both nations.

(<https://culturavia.org>)

## The Christian Dimension

**Faith & Heritage** Many American Christians support Israel because they recognize the country as the birthplace of their faith and as a place where Christian communities worship freely. Evangelical leaders, including Ambassador Huckabee, often emphasize the protection of this site and religious freedoms within the country's democratic system. **Arts & Culture** **Education**

**Philanthropy** Claims that Israel is hostile to Christianity conflict with the lived reality of millions of Christian pilgrims who visit the country each year and practice their faith openly in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. **Blog** **About**

For commentators who present themselves as defenders of Christian civilization, repeating narratives that demonize the one Middle Eastern state safeguarding Christian religious life raises serious questions about consistency.

## Get Involved

(<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>)

Public debate about foreign policy should welcome honest disagreement. That debate requires consistent standards and factual accuracy. The contrast between Tucker Carlson's deferential treatment of authoritarian figures and his aggressive hostility toward Israel suggests a troubling double standard.

The United States and Israel share a strategic alliance built on democratic values, intelligence cooperation, and mutual defense. Claims that Israel controls American policy, persecutes Christians, or lacks historical legitimacy do not withstand scrutiny.

When influential voices repeat such narratives, they do more than criticize a foreign government. They risk amplifying claims that weaken American alliances and distort historical truth. For Americans who value democratic partners and religious freedom, defending those principles remains an obligation that transcends political commentary.



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Culturavia

Our mission is to deepen the connection between the people of the United States and Israel by celebrating shared heritage, strengthening cultural and faith-based ties, and expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement. We empower students, communities, and leaders to experience Israel firsthand, explore the stories that shaped both nations, and build lasting relationships rooted in respect, learning, and a shared commitment to freedom.

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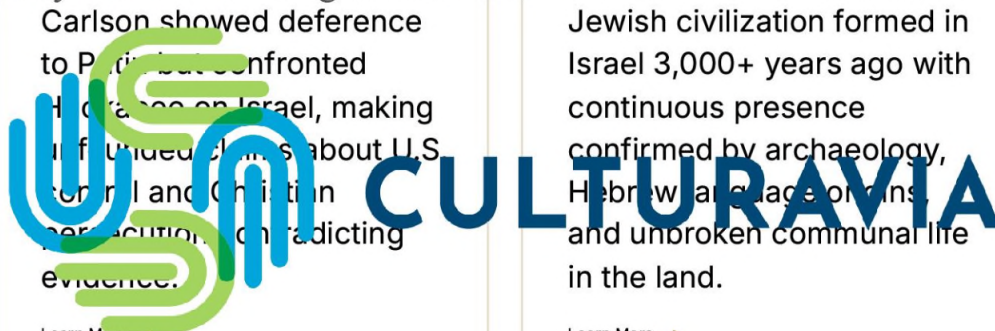
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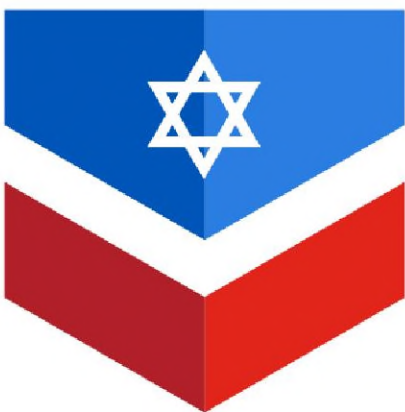
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# ALLYVIA

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**Strengthening the US and Israel Alliance for Security,  
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## **United for Security: How U.S.– Israel Cooperation Shaped the Operation Against Iran**

The joint military operation launched by the United States and Israel (<https://allyvia.org/blog/irans-1979-embassy-takeover-anniversary-a-reminder-of-enduring-hostility-toward-the-united-states-and-israel/>) on February 28, marked one of the most significant examples of strategic cooperation between the two allies. Known in Israel as Operation “Roaring Lion” and referred to by U.S. officials as Operation

“Epic Fury,” the campaign combined intelligence, cyber capabilities, and military force to target Iran’s leadership, missile infrastructure, and military command systems. The operation demonstrated the depth of the U.S.–Israel alliance and reflected a shared determination to confront threats posed by the Iranian regime, including its nuclear ambitions, ballistic missile program, and regional proxy network.

## Key Takeaways

- The United States and Israel launched (<https://www.ajc.org/news/the-iran-strikes-explained-how-we-got-here-and-what-it-means>) coordinated strikes on Iran on **February 28**, targeting military leadership and strategic infrastructure.
- The operation integrated **airpower, intelligence sharing, and cyber operations**, reflecting unprecedented (<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/world/middleeast/israel-us-collaboration-iran-war.html>) operational cooperation.
- U.S. officials said (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/read-trumps-full-statement-on-iran-attack>) the campaign aims to **prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and eliminate imminent threats** to American and Israeli security.
- Joint operations disrupted Iranian command networks and degraded missile capabilities early in the campaign.
- The collaboration highlights the long-standing strategic partnership between the United States and Israel in confronting regional security challenges.

## A Long-Planned Strategic Partnership

The strikes against Iran did not emerge overnight. For years, U.S. and Israeli defense planners have coordinated closely (<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/04/world/middleeast/israel-us-collaboration-iran-war.html>) on intelligence and military planning related to Iran’s nuclear program and regional activities. The 2026 operation reflected that preparation.

According to security analysts and government statements, the campaign involved coordinated targeting of Iranian military infrastructure in cities including Tehran, Isfahan, and Qom. These targets included command centers, missile sites, and facilities linked to Iran’s security apparatus.

## Intelligence and Cyber Operations Working Together

One of the defining features of the operation was the integration (<https://www.jpost.com/defense-and-tech/article-888820>) of cyber warfare with traditional military strikes.

Before the first bombs were dropped, coordinated U.S.–Israeli cyber operations disrupted Iranian communications networks, command systems, and sensor infrastructure. According to military officials, the goal was to leave Iranian forces “disrupted, disoriented, and confused” before kinetic strikes began.

Cyber teams reportedly targeted state media channels, communications networks, and digital infrastructure, limiting Iran’s ability to coordinate a rapid response.

This approach demonstrates how modern warfare increasingly combines digital and physical operations to achieve strategic surprise.

## Coordinated Airpower and Precision Strikes

The military phase of the operation involved coordinated airstrikes (<http://ynetnews.com/article/b1kihtry11g>) carried out by Israeli and American forces. These attacks targeted key Iranian military installations and leadership facilities.

Reports indicate that the campaign struck hundreds of strategic sites, including missile launch systems, air defense networks, and military command centers tied to Iran’s security forces.

The ability to carry out such strikes deep inside Iranian territory required extensive intelligence coordination and logistical support between the two allies.

According to defense officials, the campaign significantly degraded Iranian missile infrastructure and disrupted the chain of command within Iran’s military leadership.

# A Shared Security Goal



The United States and Israel have long viewed Iran's nuclear program and missile capabilities as a major security concern. Negotiations in recent years sought to limit Iran's nuclear development, but disagreements over enforcement and missile restrictions persisted.

When diplomacy failed to resolve those issues, both countries concluded that military action was necessary to prevent what they saw as an imminent strategic threat.

U.S. officials stated that the goal of the operation was to defend American citizens and allies while preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

For Israel, the stakes are particularly high. Iranian leaders have repeatedly called for Israel's destruction and supported armed groups that have launched attacks on Israeli civilians.

## The Strength of the U.S.-Israel Alliance

The operation also highlighted the broader strategic partnership ([https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/israel-among-the-nations-northamerica/en/English\\_SiteTransfer\\_DOCUMENTS\\_ch10.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/israel-among-the-nations-northamerica/en/English_SiteTransfer_DOCUMENTS_ch10.pdf)) between the United States and Israel. For decades, the two nations have cooperated closely on intelligence, defense technology, and counterterrorism.

Joint initiatives have included missile defense systems, intelligence sharing on regional threats, and coordinated planning for potential crises involving Iran.

Operation Epic Fury represents one of the clearest demonstrations of that partnership in action.

The ability to coordinate complex military operations across intelligence, cyber, and airpower domains reflects a high level of trust and integration between the two countries' defense establishments.

## A Message to Regional Adversaries

Beyond the immediate military objectives, the joint campaign sends a broader signal across the Middle East.

By acting together, the United States and Israel demonstrated that threats from Iran's nuclear program and regional military networks will face a unified response.

This message is intended not only for Tehran but also for Iranian-backed militias and other actors who rely on Iranian support.

The operation underscores that the U.S.–Israel alliance remains a central pillar of stability and deterrence in the region.

## Conclusion

The joint U.S.–Israel operation against Iran that began on February 28, represents a major milestone in the strategic cooperation between the two nations. Through a combination of intelligence sharing, cyber operations, and coordinated military strikes, the campaign demonstrated how deeply integrated the two countries' security partnerships have become.

While the long-term outcomes of the conflict will continue to unfold, the operation already illustrates the strength of the alliance between the United States and Israel. In confronting shared threats such as Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional aggression, the two countries have shown that close collaboration remains one of the most effective tools for defending their security and promoting stability in the Middle East.

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