

OSINT Summary: Israel & Iran War

Researched, collated & compiled by @sif lqb@l



Overview

In June 2025, Israel and Iran entered a direct, high-intensity military confrontation, marking the most severe escalation in their decades-long rivalry. Israel carried out unprecedented attack on Iranian nuclear and military sites, followed by massive Iranian missile and drone barrages on Israeli cities. Both sides have suffered significant casualties, including high-ranking military officials and civilians, with the conflict threatening to spiral into a broader regional war.

Key Developments

Operation Rising Lion: Israeli Strikes on Iran

- **Date & Launch:** Early morning, June 13, 2025, Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, targeting over a hundred Iranian nuclear, military, and infrastructure sites.
- **Tactics:** The assault began with swarms of explosive drones disabling Iranian air defenses, followed by over 200 Israeli fighter jets striking nuclear facilities (notably Natanz), missile bases, and command centers.
- **Targets & Casualties:**
 - Multiple senior Iranian military leaders killed, including IRGC commander Hossein Salami and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri.

- At least six to nine top Iranian nuclear scientists killed, including Fereydoun Abbasi and Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani.
- Significant damage to Iran's uranium enrichment facilities at Natanz and Isfahan.
- Civilian casualties reported, with Iran declaring a state of national mourning.

Iranian Retaliation

- **Missile and Drone Attacks:** Iran responded with hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones targeting Israeli urban centers and strategic sites.
- **Impact in Israel:**
 - At least 10 Israeli civilians killed, including children, and hundreds wounded as some missiles evaded Israel's defense systems.
 - Major damage to residential areas and critical infrastructure.
- **Continued Strikes:** Both sides have exchanged further attacks, with Israel targeting Iranian oil depots and defense ministry buildings, and Iran striking Israeli cities and energy installations.

Timeline

Date	Event
June 13, 2025	Israel launches Operation Rising Lion: massive strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites.
June 13-14	Iran confirms deaths of top IRGC commanders and nuclear scientists; declares mourning.
June 14-15	Iran launches large-scale missile and drone retaliation against Israel.
June 15	Third consecutive night of strikes; both sides report dozens of deaths and hundreds wounded.

What were the Triggers?

- **Intelligence & Pre-emption:** Israel claimed recent intelligence showed Iran was close to weaponizing uranium, prompting a pre-emptive strike.
- **Assassinations:** The killing of senior Iranian military and nuclear figures was intended to cripple Iran's nuclear program and military command.

- **Breakdown in Diplomacy:** Nuclear negotiations between Iran and the US collapsed just before the strikes, removing diplomatic off-ramps.

Israeli Drone Base Inside Iran

- Israeli intelligence (Mossad) established a covert drone base on Iranian soil, reportedly near Tehran, as part of the long-term preparation for the June 2025 strikes.
- Drones launched from this base targeted Iranian surface-to-surface missile launchers and air defense systems, clearing the way for Israeli Air Force operations.
- Mossad operatives also smuggled precision-guided weapons and commandos into Iran, using these assets to neutralize Iranian air defenses and facilitate the air raid.

Assassination of IRGC Leadership and Nuclear Scientists

- The Israeli operation resulted in the targeted killing of several top Iranian military leaders, including:
 - **Hossein Salami** – Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
 - **Mohammad Bagheri** – Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces
 - **Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh** – IRGC Air Force Chief, responsible for Iran’s missile and drone programs
- The strikes also killed at least six prominent Iranian nuclear scientists, including individuals directly involved in uranium enrichment and nuclear weapons development.
- The assassinations were part of a coordinated effort to cripple Iran’s military command and nuclear expertise.

Israeli Air Raid on Iranian Nuclear Facilities

- Israel launched a massive air campaign—Operation Rising Lion—targeting Iran’s nuclear infrastructure, with over 200 aircraft participating in the initial wave.
- Key nuclear sites struck included:
 - **Natanz Enrichment Complex:** Multiple facilities, including the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP), were heavily damaged, disrupting advanced centrifuge operations and power supplies.
 - **Isfahan Nuclear Facilities:** Sustained significant damage, with satellite imagery confirming destruction to support buildings and electrical substations.
 - **Fordow Site:** Reports indicate strikes near or at the facility, though much of its infrastructure is deep underground, making full assessment difficult.

- The strikes aimed to degrade Iran's uranium enrichment capabilities and delay or destroy its potential for nuclear weaponization.

Key Israeli actions

Action	Details	Outcome
Covert drone base established	Mossad set up a drone base near Tehran; drones struck missile launchers and air defenses	Cleared path for Israeli airstrikes
Assassination of IRGC leadership	Top commanders killed: Salami, Bagheri, Hajizadeh, and others	Disrupted IRGC command structure
Killing of nuclear scientists	At least six leading nuclear scientists assassinated	Crippled nuclear expertise
Air raids on nuclear facilities	Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow targeted by massive airstrikes	Major damage to enrichment capacity

Regional & International Response

- **US, UK, France:** The US has denied direct involvement but is reportedly intercepting some Iranian missiles. Iran has threatened to target Western bases if they intervene further.
- **Global Concerns:** Fears are mounting that the conflict could engulf the region, disrupt global energy supplies, and draw in major powers.