

# TEKMUN'25



## Study Guide

UNSC

**Agenda: Addressing the Escalation of Hostilities between Iran and Israel: Missile Attacks, Nuclear Facility Strikes, and Regional Security Implications**

## **Table of content**

- 1.Letter from Secretary-General
- 2.Letter from the Under Secretary-General
- 3.Introduction to the UNSC
- 4.Introduction to the agenda item
- 5.Timeline of Major Events
- 6.Key vocabulary and concept
  - 6.1.Nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT)
  - 6.2.International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
  - 6.3.Hamas
  - 6.4.Hezbollah
  - 6.5.Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
  - 6.6.Quds Force
  - 6.7.Mossad
  - 6.8.Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)
- 7.Historical background
  - 7.1.The Islamic revolution of 1979
  - 7.2.The Iran-Iraq war
  - 7.3.Iran's support for Hezbollah and Hamas
  - 7.4.The nuclear tensions
  - 7.5.Abraham accords
  - 7.6.Israel's strike on Syria
  - 7.7.Iran-Israel Escalation: Direct Confrontation and Regional Consequences
- 8.Roles of Major parties
- 9.Previous UNSC resolutions and actions
- 10.Humanitarian impacts
- 11.Possible solutions
- 12.Questions to be answered
- 13.Further readings & Bibliography

## **Letter from the Secretary General**

Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor and excitement that I welcome you all to the second edition of TEKMUN. As the Secretary General, I am truly proud to witness the gathering of bright, passionate and globally minded individuals who are ready to discuss, debate and shape solutions to the pressing issues of our time.

TEKMUN was founded with a vision and to create a platform where ideas meet diplomacy, and where every delegate finds their voice. This year we aim to uphold that vision by providing a conference that not only challenges your intellect but also inspires collaboration, empathy and leadership.

Each committee has been carefully designed to reflect the diversity and complexity of international relations. From humanitarian crises to global security, TEKMUN'25 invites you to think critically, speak confidently and act diplomatically.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Secretariat, Organizing Team and our Academic Team for their endless efforts in bringing this conference to life. To our delegates, I wish you fruitful debates, new friendships and unforgettable experiences. May TEKMUN'25 be a milestone in your MUN journey and a reminder that your voice matters.

Warm regards,

Sıla Bayram

Secretary General of TEKMUN'25

## **2.Letter from the Under Secretary-General**

Dear delegates,

After greeting you, I would like to express my gratitude to my dear friend and extraordinary Secretary General Sila Bayram, for inviting me to this splendid MUN conference, TEKMUN, that I am sure about it being the best version, and allowing me to structure the committee as I desired. I would also like to express my honor and pleasure in serving as Under Secretary General of this committee.

I completed this guide in three sleepless nights and endless cups of coffee, hoping that it will facilitate your understanding of the wide range of discussion topics of the committee. I have strived to do my best to assist you as much as possible. Understanding, analyzing, and enriching the multifaceted nature of the ongoing Israeli-Iranian conflict, which has been a hot topic until recently, with diverse perspectives, are among the tasks you will undertake using your creativity and debating skills that I believe you will do your best.

Your presence on this committee demonstrates how special you are as delegates. After all, UNSC is the core structure of the United Nations and it's not easy to be part of it ;) . While I cannot guarantee that you will not be overwhelmed by the time updates, crises and surprises that's going to happen, I want you to have the full confidence that I will do my best to ensure you have an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. Nevertheless, you still have many pages to read so If you have any questions regarding the committee, the conflict, or the politics of the country you will represent, please do not hesitate to ask me. Wish you good luck ;) .

Under Secretary General,

Ayşe Hilal

E-mail: [benaysedegilim08@gmail.com](mailto:benaysedegilim08@gmail.com)

### **3.Introduction to the committee**

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes: to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach an agreement by peaceful means. The Council may: set forth principles for such an agreement; undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases; dispatch a mission; appoint special envoys; or request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute. When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may: issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict; dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including: economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans; severance of diplomatic relations; blockade; or even collective military action. A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

#### **4.Introduction to the agenda item**

The Iranian-Israeli conflict has reached a high level of escalation, with both countries exchanging missile strikes and attacks on military and strategic infrastructure. In April 2024, Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel in retaliation for a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian consulate in Syria, marking the first direct attack between the two sides.

The broader Iran-Israel conflict has historically been driven by ideological, geographic, and nuclear tensions. Israel views Iran's support for Hezbollah and Hamas, along with its nuclear ambitions, as existential threats. Conversely, Tehran views Israeli actions as violations of territorial sovereignty aimed at isolating the Islamic Republic.

This expanding war threatens not only regional stability but also global security. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the potential for escalation into a wider regional war involving Hezbollah, the United States, and the Gulf states has increased significantly. Diplomatic normalization processes, such as the Abraham Accords, have been disrupted as countries reconsider their alignment amid growing instability.

A key aspect of the conflict involves Iran's ballistic missile program, which has expanded significantly in recent years. The missile barrage launched in April 2024 demonstrated Iran's ability to penetrate Israeli territory. Israel, in turn, has focused on targeting Iranian nuclear sites to slow what it perceives as Tehran's accelerating pursuit of a nuclear weapon. These attacks raise questions about state sovereignty under international law, particularly regarding the legality of preventive or retaliatory strikes on nuclear facilities.

Scholars note that under the UN Charter, states may invoke the right of self-defense in response to armed attacks, but this right is subject to the condition of necessity. As such, Israeli and

Iranian justifications for their actions continue to fuel global debate about sovereignty, deterrence, and compliance with international norms.

## **5. Timeline of The Major Events**

**1979** – Iranian Islamic Revolution: Establishment of the Islamic Republic and break of ties with Israel.

**1982** – Iran supports Hezbollah’s formation in Lebanon.

**2002** – Exposure of Iran's covert nuclear facilities (Natanz, Arak).

**2006** – UN sanctions imposed over Iran’s nuclear program.

**2015** – Iran signs JCPOA (nuclear deal) with world powers.

**2018** – US withdraws from JCPOA under Trump administration.

**2020** – Assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh (allegedly by Israel).

**2021–2023** – Shadow war: Cyberattacks, Syria strikes, and drone warfare.

**2024 (April)** – Iran launches direct missile and drone attack on Israel following Israeli strike in Damascus.

**2024 (May–July)** – Escalation of proxy conflicts and Iranian nuclear advancements increase regional instability.

**Mid 2025** – Intensified diplomatic efforts and covert operations precede UNSC preparations for decisive resolutions.

## **6.Key vocabulary and concept**

### **6.1.Nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT)**

The Nuclear non-proliferation treaty also known as NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

### **6.2.International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an intergovernmental organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. It was established in 1957 as an autonomous international organization though governed by its own founding treaty, the IAEA Statute, the organization reports to both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, and is headquartered at the UN Office at Vienna, Austria.

### **6.3.Hamas**

The Islamic Resistance Movement, abbreviated Hamas, is a Palestinian nationalist Sunni Islamist political organisation with a military wing, the Qassam Brigades known for its resistance against Israel. It has governed the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip since 2007 and is a terror organization recognized as such by the United States and the European Union. Though Hamas is Sunni and

Iran is Shia, they share a common opposition to Israel. Iran supports Hamas with funding, weapons, and training, making Hamas a key part of Iran's broader strategy in the region.

#### **6.4.Hezbollah**

Hezbollah is a Shiite Muslim political party and militant group based in Lebanon, where it has fostered a reputation as "a state within a state." Founded during the chaos of the fifteen-year Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990), the Iran-backed group is driven by its violent opposition to Israel and its resistance to Western influence in the Middle East.

#### **6.5.Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also known as the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, is a multi-service primary branch of the Iranian Armed Forces. It was officially established by Ruhollah Khomeini as a military branch in May 1979 in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution. Whereas the Iranian Army protects the country's sovereignty in a traditional capacity, the IRGC's constitutional mandate is to ensure the integrity of the Islamic Republic. Most interpretations of this mandate assert that it entrusts the IRGC with preventing foreign interference in Iran, thwarting coups by the traditional military, and crushing "deviant movements" that harm the ideological legacy of the Islamic Revolution.

#### **6.6.Quds Force**

The Quds Force is one of five branches of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).It specializes in unconventional warfare and military intelligence operations. The Quds Force as an organization analogous to a combination of the CIA and the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in the United States.Responsible for extraterritorial operations, the Quds Force supports non-state actors in many countries, including Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Houthi movement, and Shia militias in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

## **6.7.Mossad**

The Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations popularly known as Mossad is the national intelligence agency of the State of Israel. It is one of the main entities in the Israeli Intelligence Community, along with Aman (military intelligence) and Shin Bet (internal security).

## **6.8.Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also known as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement to limit the Iranian nuclear program in return for sanctions relief and other provisions. The agreement was finalized in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)—China, France, Russia, the U.K., U.S.—plus Germany)[a] together with the European Union.



Officials announcing the agreement

## **7. Historical background**

### **7.1. The Islamic revolution of 1979**

The Iranian Revolution was a series of events that culminated in the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1979. The revolution led to the replacement of the Imperial State of Iran by [the Islamic Republic of Iran](#), as the monarchical government of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was superseded by Ruhollah Khomeini, an Islamist cleric who had headed one of the rebel factions. The ousting of Mohammad Reza, the last shah of Iran, formally marked the end of Iran's historical monarchy.

Under the Pahlavi dynasty, which ruled from 1925 until it was overthrown in the 1979 revolution, ties between Iran and Israel were anything but hostile. Iran was, in fact, the second Muslim-majority country to recognise Israel after it was founded in 1948.

In 1979, the shah was overthrown in a revolution, and a new Islamic Republic of Iran was born. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the revolution, brought about a new worldview that predominantly championed Islam and argued for standing up to “arrogant” world powers and their regional allies, who would oppress others – including Palestinians – to serve their own interests. Tehran cut off all ties with Israel; citizens could no longer travel and flight routes were cancelled; and the Israeli embassy in Tehran was transformed into the Palestinian embassy.



Mass demonstrations of people protesting against the Shah and the Pahlavi government on the day of Hosseini's Ashura on 11 December 1978 at College Bridge, Tehran

## 7.2.The Iran-Iraq war

The war between Iran and Iraq (1980-1988) had a deep and lasting impact on the region. It was a bloody conflict with huge casualties and massive destruction, especially for Iran. After the years of war, Iran was heavily damaged and politically isolated. This shaped how the country approached defense in the next few years . Since it had had time relying on outside help, Iran focused more on building up its own military power, particularly missile programs and, later, its nuclear activities.

Iran's growing relations and connections to proxy groups was also one of the outcomes of the war. Since it couldn't engage with its enemies directly, it started supporting non-state actors like Hezbollah in Lebanon and later Hamas in Gaza. These proxies gave Iran a way to push back

against Israeli impact in the region without getting into open war. Tehran sees these groups as part of its resistance network, particularly in its rivalry with Israel.

On the other hand, for Israel, the war worked in its favor in some ways. With Iraq caught up in a long war and weakened afterward, Israel no longer saw it as the main threat. Instead, attention gradually shifted toward Iran, especially as Iran expanded its power across the Middle East.

In conclusion the Iran–Iraq War set the stage for the indirect but tense conflict we now see between Iran and Israel. The war pushed Iran to become more self-reliant and to build a strategy based on asymmetric warfare, which still defines its actions today.

### **7.3.Iran's support for Hezbollah and Hamas**

Iran has provided Hezbollah and Hamas with money, weapons, and training. Iran and its proxies use asymmetric tactics including guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and drone and missile strikes to pursue their interests. Iran's strategy of proxy warfare enables it to counter adversaries, expand its regional influence, and achieve objectives while avoiding full-scale warfare.

Iran has provided these groups with funds, weapons, training, and other forms of support. Tehran has used these groups to pressure Israel, the United States, and other rivals while minimizing the risk of direct conflict. Since Hamas and Hezbollah are two groups that Israel considers terrorist organizations, Tehran's support for them increases tension. The Israeli government has already targeted Iranian weapons shipments and military infrastructure in Syria. Meanwhile, Iran has reportedly supported rocket attacks on Israel through proxies such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Iran's strategy of using armed groups to indirectly engage Israel is part of a broader regional power struggle.

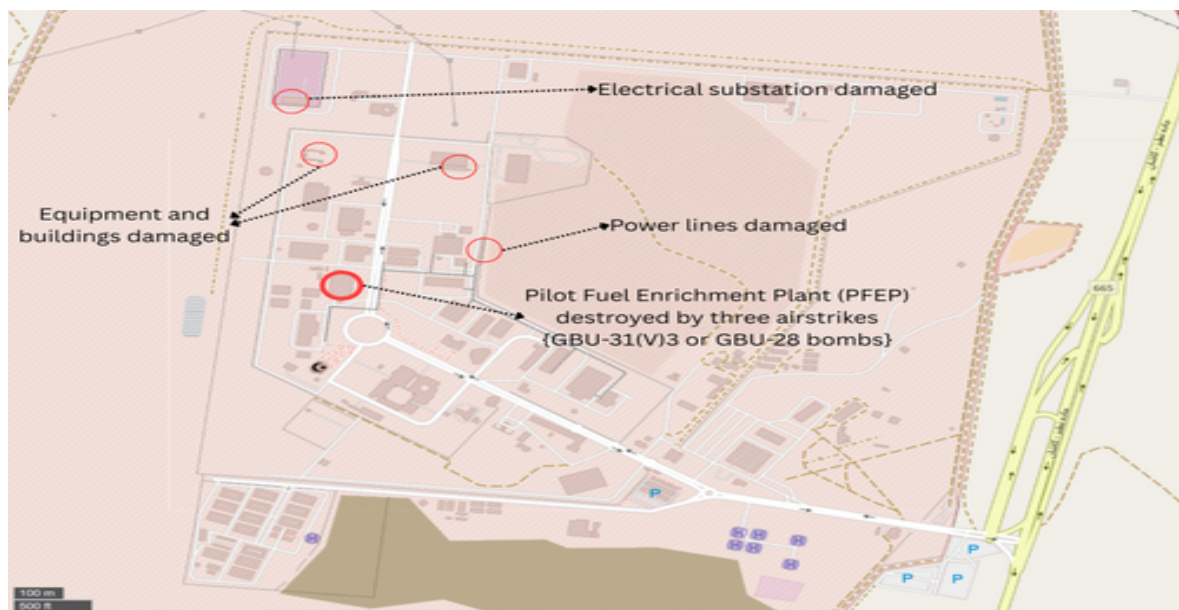


Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah with Ali Khamenei on the left and Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani on the right.

#### **7.4.The Nuclear tensions**

In a wave of attacks, the Israeli military struck the Natanz nuclear facility, military bases, and other targets in Iran, and also assassinated Iran's three top military leaders among many other senior military officials and several nuclear scientists. The objective of the Israeli strikes appears to be not only to slow Iran's immediate progress, but also to impose a longer-term setback by removing expertise and key assets that will be difficult to rebuild. Israel has consistently maintained that it will not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons and has signaled that it is prepared to use military force to stop it. While Israel's military strikes are likely to set back Iran's nuclear program, parts of the program will remain intact to varying degrees, and Iran will seek to retaliate. These military escalations risk dragging the region into broader conflict and may provoke further instability. Analysts warn that such operations could strengthen hardliners within Iran and give them justification to advance uranium enrichment and reduce cooperation with international inspectors.

In response to these developments, the IAEA has reiterated its stance that nuclear facilities must never be attacked regardless of the context or circumstances, emphasizing the agency's view that such actions are dangerous and unlawful. The IAEA's General Conference has also published resolutions noting that any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and the Statute of the Agency. The IAEA has expressed "deep concern" over Iran's limited cooperation with inspections and transparency. Meanwhile, the risk of miscalculation remains high, with nuclear rhetoric and actions escalating on both sides. The international community continues to debate how to prevent nuclear proliferation in such a volatile context, while reaffirming the urgency of diplomacy, oversight, and legal safeguards.



Israeli airstrike locations at the Natanz Nuclear Facility

## 7.5. Abraham accords

The Abraham Accords, brokered by the United States and signed in 2020, are agreements that normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. The accords marked a significant shift in Middle East diplomacy, reflecting shared concerns over Iran's regional influence.

The agreements represent a significant realignment of Middle Eastern politics, as countries that had long refused to formally recognize Israel began to establish diplomatic and economic ties. According to analysts, The Abraham Accords were driven by the perception among Gulf Arab states that a strong relationship with Israel, particularly in terms of intelligence and defense cooperation, could serve as a counterweight to Iran.

Iran has sharply criticized the Abraham Accords, calling them a betrayal of the Palestinian cause and an effort by the U.S. and Israel to isolate Tehran. Iranian officials have warned that the agreements will increase regional instability and heighten tensions with Tehran. The normalization process has added another layer of complexity to the Iran-Israel conflict, with Tehran viewing the growing alliance between Israel and Sunni Arab states as a direct threat to its strategic interests. This convergence has led Iran to deepen its ties with proxies such as Hezbollah and Hamas as a means to project power and respond to what it sees as an expanding Israeli-Arab front aligned with the United States.

#### **7.6.Israel's strikes on Syria**

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011, Israel has conducted hundreds of airstrikes inside Syria, targeting weapon shipments to Hezbollah and Iranian forces. This campaign significantly intensified after 2017, reaching its peak in 2022 with 48 targeted strikes across various locations in Syria.

On 1 April 2024, Israel struck the Iranian consulate in Damascus, destroying the building housing its consular section and killing sixteen individuals, including seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members, five Iran-backed militiamen, one Hezbollah fighter, one Iranian advisor and two Syrian civilians. On 8 September 2024, Israeli special forces raided an underground missile production facility at a branch of Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC) near Masyaf and destroyed the facility, killing at least eighteen people including Iranian-backed Syrian militiamen and Hezbollah militants.

These operations illustrate Israel's broader strategy to prevent Iran from entrenching itself militarily in Syria and disrupt the flow of advanced weaponry to its proxies. They represent the most intense phase of Israel's "war between wars" strategy but raise concerns about escalating regional conflict and Iran's potential retaliatory measures.



Israel's strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria.

### **7.8.Iran-Israel Escalation: Direct Confrontation and Regional Consequences**

On April 13, 2024, Iran launched over 300 drones and missiles at Israel in Operation True Promise, as the first time Iran had directly attacked Israeli territory. This retaliatory strike followed the killing of a senior IRGC commander by an Israeli airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria. Iran framed the attack as legitimate self-defense, while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei hailed it as a "success". The United States, Jordan, the United Kingdom, and Israel cooperated to intercept the vast majority of projectiles, though some missiles caused minor damage at Israel's Negev Airbase.

In response, Israel carried out a limited airstrike on April 19, 2024, reportedly targeting an airbase near Isfahan, central Iran and near sites associated with Iran's nuclear program. While Iran downplayed the damage and did not retaliate immediately, IRGC commander Hossein Salami warned of a "harsh, extensive and painful" response to any further Israeli aggression. Iranian proxies including Hezbollah and militant groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, escalated regional hostilities by attacking U.S. forces, Israeli positions, and maritime assets.

By mid-2025, tensions remained elevated. Iran has been leveraging its regional proxy network often referred to as the Axis of Resistance to continue pressure on Israel and its allies. Meanwhile, Israel maintains its policy of targeting Iranian military infrastructure and affiliated militias across the region. Despite calls for de-escalation by the United Nations and multiple regional actors, the direct conflict between Iran and Israel, along with proxy activity in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, underscores a dangerous and volatile shift in the Middle East security landscape.

## **8.Roles of Major parties**

### **Iran**

Iran faces a critical decision in responding to Israel's unprecedented attacks; with increasingly narrow options, Tehran will explore how best to combine ballistic and cruise missiles alongside long-range attack drones to overwhelm Israel's air defenses. Iran has also warned that any United States intervention in the conflict with Israel would risk an "all-out war" as the two sides traded attacks for a sixth straight day. Iran has built a regional "Axis of Resistance," which has significantly eroded, but still provides Iran with leverage across the Middle East via groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

### **Israel**

Israel maintains an aggressive stance against Iranian influence in Syria and elsewhere. It regularly launches airstrikes against Iranian-linked targets in Syria and has warned that it holds Iran directly responsible for attacks by proxies. By fusing years of intelligence preparation with

special operations capabilities, Israel achieved strategic surprise and significant impact against Iran's nuclear program and military leadership. Israel has significantly weakened Iran's nuclear and military leadership with airstrikes that leave a weakened Tehran with few options to retaliate. This coordinated use of intelligence, covert operations, and long-range strikes demonstrates Israel's capacity to project force far beyond its borders.



Iran-Israel flags.

## **Hamas**

Iran has provided Hamas with training, equipment, and financing and vastly improved the terrorist organization's capabilities, evidenced by the cross-border attack into Israel on October 7 that resulted in more than 1,400 killed. The unification of Iran's network of proxies under the purview of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force Commander Esmail Qaani has been a force multiplier and cemented Iran's "unity of fronts" strategy as the most effective means of encircling Israel. Hamas fighters received specialized combat training in Iran before attacking Israel, with roughly 500 militants trained by Quds Force officers, including Brig. Gen. Esmail

Qaani. Hamas shares goals with Iran: to prevent Iran from ever having a nuclear weapon, to remove Hamas from power in Gaza, and for Hezbollah to have far less power in Lebanon than it does now.

## **Hezbollah**

Following Hamas's October 7 assault on Israel, Hezbollah began firing rockets, mortars, and drones across the Israel-Lebanon border in solidarity, forcing tens of thousands of Israelis to flee their homes in the north. Since October 7, 2023, there have been over 4,400 rocket, missile, and other stand-off attacks by Israel and Hezbollah combined and Hezbollah and Iranian-linked groups in Lebanon and Syria continue to stockpile stand-off weapons that can hit Israel.

Hezbollah forces in Syria have improved their operational and tactical combat skills, trained and equipped thousands of militants, and stockpiled advanced weaponry including Fateh-110/M-600 guided missiles, Karrar armed drones, Shahab-1 and Shahab-2 ballistic missiles, and possibly chemical weapons. The bottom line here is that the Iranians do not want Hezbollah to get involved in full scale war with Israel and Hezbollah is a key component of Iran's deterrence architecture.

## **Syria**

Syria remains a critical battleground in the Israel-Iran conflict, largely due to Iran's military presence and influence within the country. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran-backed militias such as Hezbollah operate in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime. These forces use Syrian territory to transport weapons, train fighters, and launch operations against Israel. In response, Israel has conducted hundreds of airstrikes in Syria targeting Iranian and Hezbollah infrastructure to prevent Iran from entrenching itself along Israel's northern border. Syria has condemned these strikes and often accuses Israel of violating its sovereignty. However, the Syrian government of Bashar Al Asad also benefits from Iran's support in its long civil war. The presence of both Iranian forces and Iranian proxy groups in Syria makes the country a strategic frontline in the broader conflict, intensifying Israeli concerns and increasing the risk of regional escalation.

## **Russia**

Moscow in April ratified a strategic partnership agreement with Iran but crucially did not create any kind of military alliance between the two countries. Russia's response to Israel and the United States attacks against Iran has emphasized traditional Russian desires for Middle Eastern stability, good relations with a variety of regional players, opportunities to discredit the United States, and the ability to play the role of a great power.

## **China**

China's response was to strongly condemn Israel's actions, which violate all basic norms governing international relations. The Chinese Foreign Ministry considered the attacks on Tehran's nuclear facilities to set a dangerous precedent. While Russia and the PRC supported Iran's right to retaliate against Israel's "unprovoked" attacks, they stopped short of promoting the vengeful and militant messages of the Iranian regime.

## **United States of America**

The United States plays a central role in the Israel-Iran conflict due to its unwavering support for Israel and its long-standing opposition to Iran's regional activities. It views Iran as a destabilizing actor in the Middle East because of its nuclear ambitions and support for proxy groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. The U.S. has enforced tough sanctions on Iran and designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. Following the Hamas-led attacks on Israel in October 2023, the U.S. pledged strong support for Israel, deployed military assets to deter Iran and its proxies, and launched retaliatory airstrikes against Iran-backed militias after they targeted U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria. The U.S. has consistently warned Iran against escalating the conflict, emphasizing that the U.S. does not seek war but will defend its interests and allies. This direct and indirect involvement makes the U.S. a key player in both restraining and potentially fueling the regional escalation between Israel and Iran.

## **9.Previous UNSC resolutions and actions**

The Security Council received briefings noting that any further expansion of the conflict could have enormous consequences for the region including airspace closures, fuel shortages, and mounting tensions in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. The Under-Secretary-General reiterated that the intensifying cycle of attacks and counterattacks has resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties, including fatalities, in both Iran and Israel.

The IAEA Director-General warned that attacks on nuclear sites in Iran have caused a sharp degradation in nuclear safety and security, and cautioned that if Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant were hit directly, it could result in a very high release of radioactivity to the environment. Secretary-General Guterres addressed the Council warning that the escalation could ignite a fire that no one can control, urging both parties to give peace a chance. Representatives from multiple Member States condemned attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure on both sides, stressing that unilateral military actions risk undermining the non-proliferation treaty and international law.

### **Sanctions on Iran's Nuclear Program**

UNSC Resolution 1696 (2006) demanded that Iran suspend its uranium enrichment programme, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

UNSC Resolution 1737 (2006) imposed sanctions on Iran, banning export of nuclear-related technology and freezing assets of individuals and organizations tied to its nuclear and missile programs.

UNSC Resolution 1803 (2008) required Iran to cease all uranium enrichment and related research and development, and was adopted by 14 votes to none against.

UNSC Resolution 1835 (2008) reaffirmed earlier resolutions (1696, 1737, 1747, 1803) after IAEA reports on Iran's continuing enrichment activities.

UNSC Resolution 1929 (2010) imposed the fourth round of sanctions, noting Iran's failure to comply with previous resolutions, adopted by 12 votes for, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

### **Endorsement of the JCPOA & Termination of Previous Measures**

UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015) unanimously endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and terminated earlier proliferation-related resolutions, while setting out mechanisms to monitor compliance.

Resolution 2231 also included specific restrictions on arms and missile transfers, provided procedures for snap-back sanctions, and maintained relevant restrictions for durations tied to Iran's nuclear commitments.

The mandate of the earlier resolutions (1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, 1929) would be reinstated if the Council did not vote to continue their termination, following Iran's non-performance of JCPOA commitments.

## **10. Humanitarian impact**

### **Displacement and the refugees**

On 10 October, the United Nations said the fighting had displaced more than 423,000 Palestinians, while Israeli airstrikes had destroyed 1,000 homes and rendered 560 housing units uninhabitable. By 15 October, an estimated 1 million people in Gaza had been displaced, many of them fleeing northern Gaza following Israel's mandated evacuation. Due to continued heavy Israeli bombing in south Gaza, some northern Gazan refugees moved back to Gaza City. On 19 October, the UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs stated 98,000 houses, or one in every 4 homes in Gaza, had been destroyed by Israeli bombardments. By the end of October this had grown to over 670,000 people seeking shelter in hospitals, schools, and UN facilities. Conditions had grown untenable.

### **Civilian Casualties & Humanitarian Emergency**

As of early August 2025, Gaza's civil defense agency confirmed ongoing Israeli strikes killing aid-seekers, while overall casualties in Gaza have surpassed 60,000 since October 2023. At least 40 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire and airstrikes on 4 August, including 10 seeking aid near Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites. Five additional deaths from starvation were reported, bringing the total hunger-related toll to 180, including 93 children. More than 1,000 people have died while trying to receive aid since May 2025, mostly due to Israeli forces near aid sites.

### **Economic & Energy Impact**

Following escalation, Brent crude jumped by over 10%, reaching its highest levels since January as concerns about oil supply via the Strait of Hormuz intensified. Every 1 million barrels per day disrupted could raise prices by \$8–12 per barrel, and analysts warned that a prolonged conflict could elevate Brent to \$150 per barrel, potentially cutting global output by up to \$1 trillion. Iran's oil exports plunged by 94% during the 12-day conflict, costing about \$120 million per day, totaling \$1.4 billion. Israel lost approximately \$1.5 billion from military strikes on infrastructure. Military intercepts cost millions: missile defense required hundreds of intercepts at an estimated \$4 million per interception. Iran spent \$4–5 billion on missile and drone operations. The private sector bore losses too: stock exchanges fell ~3%, equity futures dropped, safe-haven demand rose, and inflation implications surged as consumer prices climbed amid global uncertainty.

### **Regional Human Suffering & Disruption**

Humanitarian agencies called for expanded safe corridors, a UN-backed famine report warned that a “worst-case famine scenario is unfolding in Gaza,” with at least 122 Palestinians, including 83 children, dead from starvation and over 28,000 malnutrition cases confirmed. Hospitals are overwhelmed in both Iran and Israel with medical supply shortages. Thousands of civilians were evacuated from Tehran—over 300,000 people fled the city during the Israeli June strikes. This reflects broader patterns of displacement and infrastructure collapse across Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

## **11. Possible solutions**

### **1. Immediate U.N.-Backed Ceasefire**

A Security Council resolution supported by all P5 members should order an immediate stop to fighting, along with proxy operations. The United Nations should establish an observation mission with UAVs and inspection teams to ensure compliance while preventing additional strikes.

### **2. Revived Multilateral Diplomacy (P5+1+Iran)**

A new P5+1+Iran forum should be reestablished under Swiss or Omani neutral leadership. A phased agreement should establish Iran to cap enrichment at 20 percent while dismantling advanced cascades and providing the IAEA full access to facilities in exchange for step-by-step sanctions relief and energy investments after successful verification.

### **3. Proxy Containment and Accountability**

The Financial Action Task Force should lead an international coalition to sanction Iranian networks obtaining dual-use technologies, as this pressure would force Pakistan to end its precision-guidance exports. The Houthi leadership can join ceasefire negotiations to receive humanitarian aid for Yemen in exchange for ending their drone attacks.

### **4. Inclusive Regional Security Dialogue**

A Middle East Security Forum should be established to bring together Israel, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, GCC states, and Iraq. The WMD-free zone should be negotiated while implementing mutual confidence-building measures (e.g., shared air defense drills) together with coordinated maritime security measures for key waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb.

### **5. Economic Incentives & Compliance Guarantees**

“World Bank and Islamic Development Bank funding for regional infrastructure and energy projects should depend on nuclear and proxy compliance verification. A Gulf-funded investment

fund should be established to drive Iranian private enterprise development, so the country loses its motivation for aggressive policies.”

## **12. Questions to be answered**

1. What are the main reasons behind the current tension between Iran and Israel?
2. How have Iran’s connections with groups like Hezbollah and Hamas affected regional stability?
3. Why did Iran launch missile and drone attacks on Israel in April 2024, and how should the international community respond?
4. To what extent do Israel’s actions in Syria and Iran’s nuclear program increase the risk of war?
5. How has the conflict impacted diplomacy in the region, especially agreements like the Abraham Accords?
6. Should military actions, like airstrikes or missile attacks, be accepted as self-defense under international law?
7. How can the UNSC limit the use of drones and advanced weapons in the Iran-Israel conflict?
8. What risks does this conflict pose to neighboring countries and the wider Middle East?
9. How can we reduce civilian harm and protect humanitarian rights during this conflict?
10. Should the UNSC take action against proxy groups involved in the conflict, or only focus on Iran and Israel?
11. Can the UNSC help restart international negotiations like the JCPOA to reduce tensions?

12. Should international organizations like the IAEA have more authority to inspect nuclear facilities in the region?
13. Would a ceasefire or peacekeeping mission help calm the situation? Why or why not?
14. How can the UNSC support long-term peace between Iran and Israel, not just a short-term solution?
15. What should the final resolution include to lower tensions and protect international peace?

### **13. Bibliography & Further readings**

- Al Jazeera. "Iran and Israel: From Allies to Archenemies." Al Jazeera, 6 Nov. 2023, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/6/iran-and-israel-from-allies-to-archenemies](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/6/iran-and-israel-from-allies-to-archenemies).
- Al Jazeera. "US Politicians' Responses to Israel's Attacks on Iran." Al Jazeera, 13 June 2025, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/13/how-us-politicians-responded-to-israels-attacks-on-iran](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/13/how-us-politicians-responded-to-israels-attacks-on-iran).
- Amnesty International. "Urgent Need to Protect Civilians." Amnesty International, June 2025, [www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/06/urgent-need-to-protect-civilians](http://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/06/urgent-need-to-protect-civilians).
- Atlantic Council. "Experts React to Israel's Attack on Iran." Atlantic Council, [www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react-israel-just-attacked-irans-military-and-nuclear-sites](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react-israel-just-attacked-irans-military-and-nuclear-sites).
- Atlantic Council. "Israel's Strikes as Strategic Surprise." Atlantic Council, [www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/by-fusing-intelligence-and-special-operations](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/by-fusing-intelligence-and-special-operations).

- Atlantic Council. “Nuclear Nonproliferation.” Atlantic Council, [www.atlanticcouncil.org/issue/nuclear-nonproliferation](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/issue/nuclear-nonproliferation).
- Congress.gov. “R47828 Report.” US Congress, [www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47828](http://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47828).
- Council on Foreign Relations. “U.S.–Iran Confrontation.” CFR Global Conflict Tracker, [www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran](http://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran).
- CSIS. “Coming Conflict with Hezbollah.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, [www.csis.org/analysis/coming-conflict-hezbollah](http://www.csis.org/analysis/coming-conflict-hezbollah).
- CSIS. “Escalating War: Israel, Hezbollah, Iran.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, [www.csis.org/analysis/escalating-war-between-israel-hezbollah-and-iran](http://www.csis.org/analysis/escalating-war-between-israel-hezbollah-and-iran).
- CSIS. “Hezbollah’s Missiles and Rockets.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, [www.csis.org/analysis/hezbollahs-missiles-and-rockets](http://www.csis.org/analysis/hezbollahs-missiles-and-rockets).
- CSIS Nuclear Network. “U.S.-Israeli Differences on Iran’s Nuclear Challenge.” CSIS, [nuclearnetwork.csis.org/what-factors-drive-u-s-israeli-differences](http://nuclearnetwork.csis.org/what-factors-drive-u-s-israeli-differences).
- Eurasia Review. “Preventing Regional Collapse.” Eurasia Review, 16 June 2025, [www.eurasiareview.com/16062025-preventing-regional-collapse](http://www.eurasiareview.com/16062025-preventing-regional-collapse).
- Le Monde. “The Two Pillars of Iran’s Theocracy.” Le Monde, 19 Apr. 2024, [www.lemonde.fr/en/opinion/article/2024/04/19](http://www.lemonde.fr/en/opinion/article/2024/04/19).
- Newlines Institute. “Iran–Israel War Widens.” Newlines Institute, [newlinesinstitute.org/strategic-competition/real-time-analysis-iran-israel-war-widens](http://newlinesinstitute.org/strategic-competition/real-time-analysis-iran-israel-war-widens).

- Reuters. “Israel and Iran Trade Strikes.” Reuters, 14 June 2025, [www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-iran-strike-each-other](http://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-iran-strike-each-other).
- The Jerusalem Post. “Middle East Update.” The Jerusalem Post, [www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-820312](http://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-820312).
- The Moscow Times. “Russia’s Role in the Israel–Iran Conflict.” The Moscow Times, 16 June 2025, [www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/06/16](http://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/06/16).