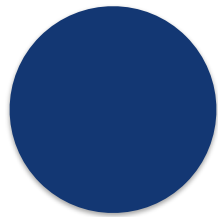


# **Política Internacional e Geopolítica a era da imprevisibilidade**

**INSTITUTO CULTURAL  
D. ANTÓNIO FERREIRA GOMES  
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## PARTE I – TEMA PRINCIPAL



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (1) [FONTE: Encyclopedia Britannica]



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (2)

[FONTE: The Economist, 18/05/2023]



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (3) [FONTE: The Economist, 18/05/2023]

## Iran's proxies in the Middle East remain a powerful force

A recent altercation with Israel has exposed their limits

May 18th 2023



Image: Getty Images

As Israeli aircraft pounded the beleaguered Gaza Strip for five days, starting on May 9th, officials in Jerusalem were at pains to point out that they were targeting only the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militia (pij). This is a small radical group funded by Iran, which had been firing rockets at Israeli towns. Israel's strategy was clear. It wanted Hamas, the larger Islamist movement that controls Gaza, to stay out of the fight. This is because it has a much larger arsenal of rockets, many provided by Iran, which can paralyse life in Israel much more effectively.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (4) [FONTE: Jason Burke / Guardian, 15/06/2025]

## How the dismantling of Iran's regional proxies paved way for Israel's attack

Israel's offensive against Iran is the latest link in a chain of events triggered by the attack launched by Hamas from Gaza into [Israel](#) on 7 October 2023. All have successively weakened Tehran and, militarily at least, empowered Israel. Without each, it is difficult to see how the new offensive it launched directly against Iran on Friday might be possible.

The first was the Israeli offensive in Gaza. This has now killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, but within weeks had militarily degraded [Hamas](#) sufficiently for the Islamist militant organisation to no longer pose a significant current threat to Israeli citizens.

As [Hamas](#) was part of the so-called axis of resistance, a coalition of similar organisations across the Middle East assembled by Tehran over the last decade or so to project power across the region and to deter Israel from striking at Iran's nuclear programme, this had major regional implications.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (5) [FONTE: Jason Burke / Guardian, 15/06/2025]

Then, in April last year, Israel bombed the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus, killing seven people. In response, [Iran](#) attacked Israel directly for the first time, launching an ineffective barrage of drones. The conflict between Iran and Israel, long fought through proxies, assassinations and strikes away from Israeli soil, had now spilled into the open.

By the autumn, with Hamas weakened, Israel could turn against Hezbollah, the Lebanese-based, Iran-supported group that was by far the most potent of the members of the axis of resistance.

In September, Israel eliminated the entire leadership echelon of Hezbollah as well as most of its feared missile stockpile and invaded its heartland in southern Lebanon without meeting significant resistance. Even Hezbollah loyalists acknowledged it had suffered a swingeing defeat.

Again, Iran launched another ineffective air offensive against Israel, which responded with airstrikes that wiped out much of Iran's air defence system, opening the way to Friday's wider attack.

Equally consequentially, Hezbollah's sudden weakness meant it was unable to come to the defence of the al-Assad regime in [Syria](#), another crucial Iranian ally, when rebels there launched an offensive. The fall of Assad in December ended decades of close relations between Tehran and Damascus. This further weakened the crumbling axis of resistance, exposed Iranian proxies in Syria and meant Israeli warplanes could reach vulnerable targets in Iran more easily.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (6) [FONTE: Jason Burke / Guardian, 15/06/2025]

By early spring of this year, the decision of Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, to entrust Iran's security to its proxies looked a supreme miscalculation and Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, keen to exploit what might be a transient window of opportunity, began preparing the major offensive he has long hoped to launch.

A deadline of April was missed, but not one set inadvertently by President Trump who allowed just 60 days for talks with Tehran to come to a new agreement on Iran's nuclear programme, which Israel claims was close to producing a nuclear weapon. That limit expired last week.

Netanyahu told Iranians on Friday that he hoped Israel's continuing military operation in Iran will "clear the path for you to achieve your freedom".

Even if Israel is not seeking to turn back the clock to years before the 1979 Iranian revolution, when the country was a close ally of Israel and of the US too, the nature of the targets Israeli planners chose may have the effect of at least dismantling the regime that has ruled ever since that seismic event.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (7) [FONTE: WSJ, 13/06/2025]

## One Iranian Miscalculation After Another

The Tehran regime pays the price for underestimating Netanyahu and Trump.



WSJ Opinion: U.S. Homeland Defense and Trump's Golden Dome

The U.S. is exposed to many threats besides ballistic missiles—ranging from drones and spy blimps to cruise missiles launched by submarines—and President Trump deserves credit for prioritizing a layered missile shield that exploits new technology and existing systems.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (8) [FONTE: WSJ, 13/06/2025]

Israelis on Friday, and Iran has landed a few missiles out of the many it fired at Israeli cities. But a series of mistakes has led Iran to the catastrophic scenario it has long sought to avoid: open war with Israel without the aid of proxies and before obtaining nuclear weapons.

How did Tehran miscalculate so badly? For months President Trump made clear that he wanted to avoid a military confrontation and make a nuclear deal. He all but begged the regime to come to terms, and his envoy Steve Witkoff made a generous offer—too generous—that would have let Iran continue enriching uranium domestically for some years.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed it out of hand. “Who are you to decide whether Iran should have enrichment?” he asked. The Iranians evidently thought they would pay no price for blowing past the President’s 60-day ultimatum and his red line on nuclear enrichment. So long as they kept talking, they presumed they could string along Mr. Trump, who would shield them from Israel.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (9) [FONTE: Mohammad Bazi / Guardian, 14/06/2025]

## **Netanyahu outplayed Trump on Iran. Now the US risks being mired in another war | Mohamad Bazzi**

Before dawn on Friday, Israel unleashed a wave of air strikes against more than [100 targets in Iran](#), including nuclear facilities, ballistic missile factories and air defense systems. The surprise Israeli attack also killed some of Iran's most senior military commanders and nuclear scientists. The Iranian regime called it a "declaration of war" – and western powers raced to prevent a wider regional conflict that could draw in the US along with other countries in the Middle East.

While the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, claims that he's trying to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the attack is as much intended to blow up ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Donald Trump's administration. While Trump's overall foreign policy has been a disaster, for months he had [resisted Netanyahu's pleas](#) to give Israel a green light to attack Iran, with US assistance. Trump insisted he wanted a chance to negotiate a deal with Iran's leaders that would compel Tehran to give up its nuclear program in exchange for relief from US and other international sanctions.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (10) [FONTE: Mohammad Bazi / Guardian, 14/06/2025]

It's hard to imagine that Netanyahu would have launched such a brazen attack against Iran without at least some tacit support from Trump. Like all modern US presidents, Trump has lavished Israel with [billions of dollars in weapons](#) and has undermined international law and institutions like the UN security council to shield Israel from criticism. But Trump also prizes his reputation as a dealmaker, and he had invested significant political capital in negotiating an agreement with Iran. In a call this week, the president reportedly [told the prime minister](#) he preferred diplomacy.

By attacking Iran and torpedoing the negotiations, Netanyahu outplayed Trump – and the Israeli leader may well ensnare the US in a new Middle East conflict that Trump insists he does not want. Since Netanyahu unleashed multiple wars in the region after the Hamas attack on southern [Israel](#) in October 2023, he's confident that the US will always bail him out. Even after Israel launched a war on Gaza, a two-month ground invasion of Lebanon and frequent attacks on Syria, it continues to receive virtually unlimited US weapons and political support from Washington.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (11) [FONTE: Mohammad Bazi / Guardian, 14/06/2025]

In the early weeks of his second term, Trump seemed eager to negotiate a new deal with Iran: [he sent a letter](#) to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying the US wanted to restart negotiations that had been abandoned by the Biden administration. As he often does in negotiations with foes and enemies alike, Trump then issued a threat, warning Iran's leaders that if diplomacy failed, they would be subjected to "bombing the likes of which they have never seen before".

In March, Trump dispatched his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, to lead a team of US negotiators to meet with top Iranian officials in mostly indirect talks mediated by Oman. Since then, Iran and the US have held five rounds of talks. The next round of negotiations was supposed to be held on Sunday, with Witkoff heading to Oman.

During its attacks on Friday, [Israel killed Ali Shamkhani](#), one of the top Iranian officials responsible for nuclear negotiations with the US. A top aide to Iran's supreme leader, Shamkhani was not officially part of the Iranian delegation in the current round of US talks, but he played a pivotal role in overseeing nuclear policy.

Iran has [pulled out](#) of the latest round of talks scheduled for this weekend. Netanyahu might have destroyed Trump's chance at making a deal with Iran – and the prime minister has increased the likelihood of yet another disastrous war.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (12) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 14/06/2025]

## **How an Israeli-American deception campaign lulled Iran into a false sense of security**

Israeli official says Trump's warnings to Netanyahu not to attack, as well as stories of Israeli officials flying to the US and PM taking a short vacation, were put out to fool regime

Netanyahu and Trump spoke by phone for 40 minutes that same day. At the time, unnamed officials leaked to Israel's Channel 12 that Trump had [told](#) Netanyahu in a "dramatic" conversation to remove an attack on Iran's nuclear sites from the agenda as negotiations continue. According to the TV report, Trump stressed that there would be no discussions on a military strike until the president concluded that nuclear talks with Iran had failed.

This, the Israeli official argued on Friday, had all been untrue.

The next day, Netanyahu [announced](#) in a video statement that there had been "significant progress" in hostage talks with Hamas. Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar echoed the message in a joint statement alongside his Zambian counterpart.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (13) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 14/06/2025]

At the same time, Israel had to sell Iran a believable story, and not ignore the nuclear issue. Instead, Israel wanted Tehran to think it was still debating the matter of a potential strike with the White House.

It thus announced that Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer and Mossad Chief David Barnea would take off for talks with US special envoy Steve Witkoff ahead of the next round of talks between Tehran and Washington, set for Sunday, claiming the trip was meant to “clarify Israel’s position.”

The Prime Minister’s Office wouldn’t even answer a direct question from The Times of Israel as to where the purported meeting was to take place. It is now clear that the meeting was never on the schedule.

Israel clearly hoped the Iranians would believe there was no way it would attack before the Sunday talks.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (14) [FONTE: Times of Israel, 14/06/2025]

On all fronts, Israel sought to put forth an air of business as usual. Netanyahu's office put out a statement on Thursday stressing that despite some media reports to the contrary amid the rising regional tensions, he would not be canceling his weekend vacation in the north.

Netanyahu's son Avner is scheduled to be married next week, an event that also led many to believe an imminent strike was unlikely. Preparations for the event went ahead. On Thursday, police erected iron roadblocks and barbed wire fences around a 100-meter (109-yard) perimeter around the upscale Ronit's Farm event hall in Kibbutz Yakum, north of Tel Aviv. That ceremony is sure to be delayed now.

Trump contributed to the effort. "He played the game together with Israel," said the Israeli official. "It was a whole coordination."

Trump said Thursday that an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites "could very well happen" but advised against it, saying the possibility of a deal was "fairly close" if Tehran compromised on its atomic ambitions in ongoing talks with the US.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (15) [FONTE: Donald Trump / Truth Social, 13/06/2025]



Donald J. Trump 

@realDonaldTrump

I gave Iran chance after chance to make a deal. I told them, in the strongest of words, to “just do it,” but no matter how hard they tried, no matter how close they got, they just couldn’t get it done. I told them it would be much worse than anything they know, anticipated, or were told, that the United States makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the World, BY FAR, and that Israel has a lot of it, with much more to come - And they know how to use it. Certain Iranian hardliner’s spoke bravely, but they didn’t know what was about to happen. They are all DEAD now, and it will only get worse! There has already been great death and destruction, but there is still time to make this slaughter, with the next already planned attacks being even more brutal, come to an end. Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire. No more death, no more destruction, JUST DO IT, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. God Bless You All!

**12.2k** ReTruths **57.2k** Likes

Jun 13, 2025 at 10:56 AM

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (16) [FONTE: NTI - Nuclear Threat Initiative]

## Iran

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

Iran's nuclear ambitions have been a focus of international diplomacy for decades. Faced with accusations of nuclear weapons pursuits in violation of its NPT commitments, Iran concluded a 2015 agreement, the JCPOA, to restrict its nuclear program. However, the 2018 U.S. withdrawal from the deal and subsequent Iranian violations cast doubt on the deal's future.

**See Iran's performance in**

[Nuclear Security Index ↗](#)

[Global Health Security Index ↗](#)





# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (17) [FONTE: NTI - Nuclear Threat Initiative]



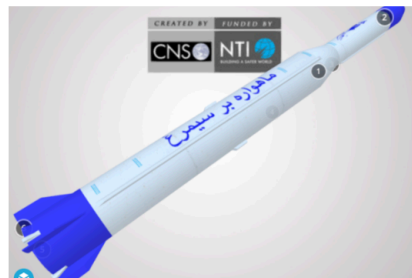
DATABASE — Mar 11, 2025

## **The CNS Iran Missile and SLV Launch Database**

Collection of Iranian missile tests including the date, time, missile name, launch agency, facility name, and test outcome. (CNS)

INTERACTIVE & VISUALIZATION — Jun 30, 2015

## **Iranian Ballistic Missile Models**



FACT SHEET — Aug 4, 2020

## **Iranian Centrifuge Model Collection**



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (18) [FONTE: Nações Unidas]

## **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

The 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.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (19) [FONTE: Nações Unidas]

The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goals of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) (IAEA). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (20) [FONTE: Atomic Heritage Foundation, 2/06/2016]

## Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

History Page Type: [Cold War History](#)

Date: Monday, June 6, 2016



The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a comprehensive international arms control agreement addressing both [horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation](#).

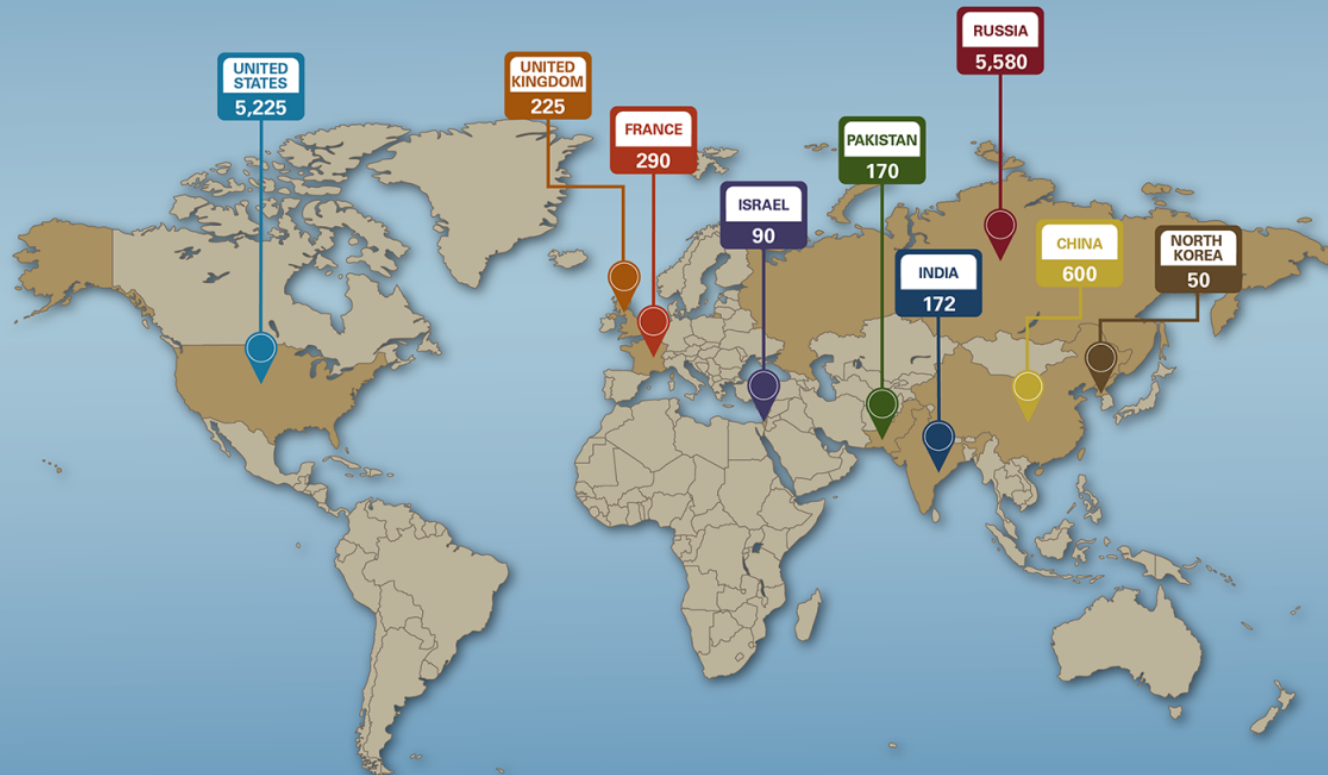
Negotiated and signed under President Lyndon B. Johnson, the NPT opened for signature on July 1, 1968. It was later ratified by the Senate under President Nixon and entered into force on March 5, 1970. [Glenn Seaborg](#), a nuclear chemist during the Manhattan Project and Chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from 1961-1971, was instrumental in the treaty's negotiations. He and the AEC worked to ensure the NPT included safeguards, such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on-site inspections, to verify countries' compliance and use of nuclear material for peaceful civilian programs as opposed to nuclear weapons.

The treaty is premised upon a fundamental bargain between nuclear states, then recognized as the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China, and nonnuclear states. Former U.S. ambassador and arm-control expert [Thomas Graham Jr. explains](#), "The treaty included a basic bargain whereby the non-nuclear weapon states agreed to forswear nuclear weapons in exchange for unfettered access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy and a pledge from nuclear weapons states to eventually eliminate their nuclear arsenals." Non-nuclear states thereby agreed to never develop or acquire nuclear weapons and to submit to international inspections of nuclear facilities in exchange for a concerted effort by nuclear powers to limit, reduce, and ultimately eliminate their stockpiles. Additionally, nuclear states agreed to assist countries develop civilian nuclear programs for peaceful purposes and forgo transferring nuclear weapons to other non-nuclear states.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (21) [FONTE: Arms Control Association]

## 2025 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of over 12,400 nuclear warheads; nearly 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,700 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



Source: Federation of American Scientists, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Updated: January 2025

Arms Control  
Association

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (22) [FONTE: Atomic Heritage Foundation, 2/06/2016]

2018 marks 50 years since the NPT was first signed. Many non-nuclear states remain frustrated by the nuclear powers' failure to eliminate their stockpiles. After a campaign led by non-governmental organizations and many non-nuclear states, the United Nations General Assembly approved the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) in 2017. The new treaty bans the use, possession, development, testing, and transfer of nuclear weapons.

Many critics point to the thousands of nuclear weapons still deployed around the world and North Korea, Israel, India, and Pakistan's nuclear programs as evidence of the NPT's shortcomings. Yet Seaborg argued in a [1986 interview](#) that on balance the NPT "had a tremendous influence in slowing the proliferation of weapons. Whereas if there were no NPT...it'd just be a plethora of countries that were building nuclear weapons. Now there are obviously a few countries that haven't signed the NPT and are still problems. But it's much better to have it focused down to a few countries than to have dozens of countries going the direction of nuclear weapons."

Although universal compliance on nuclear test bans and treaties, as with most international law, is difficult and highly unlikely, nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament are likely to remain goals of the international community as long as nuclear weapons pose a threat to international peace and security.

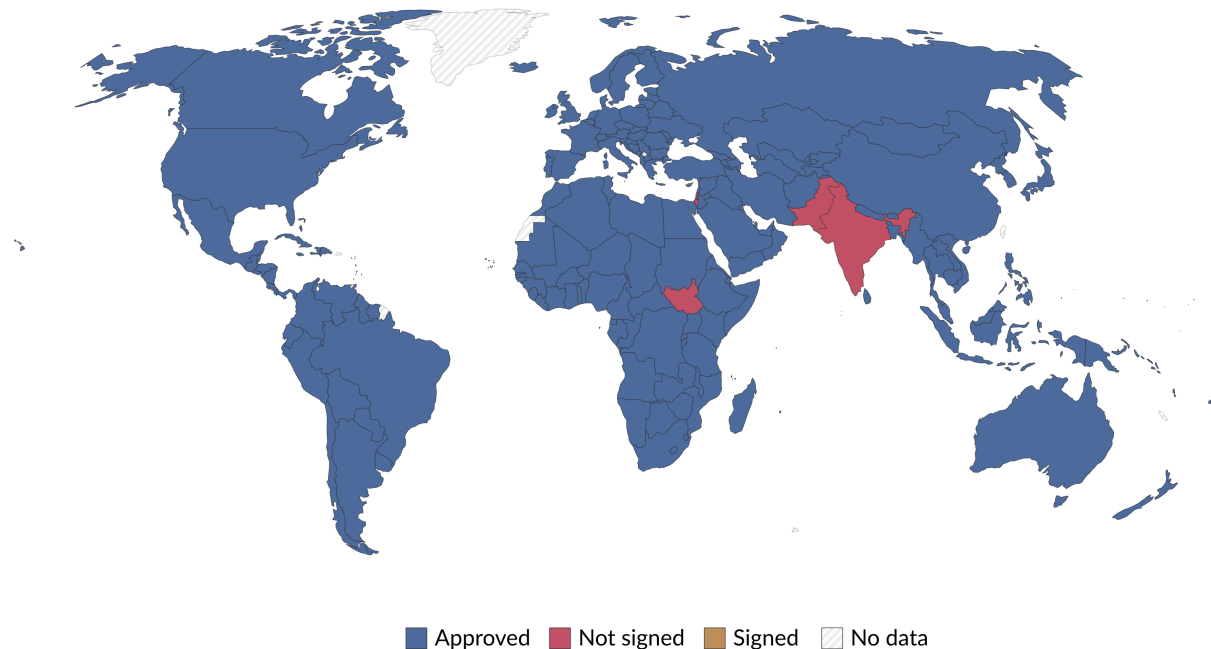


# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (23) [FONTE: Our World in Data, 2024]

## Country position on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 2024

Our World  
in Data

The treaty's objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to pursue nuclear and general disarmament. A country's position on a treaty can be "Not signed"<sup>1</sup>, "Signed"<sup>2</sup>, or "Approved"<sup>3</sup>.



Data source: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (2025)

[OurWorldinData.org/nuclear-weapons](https://OurWorldinData.org/nuclear-weapons) | CC BY

1. Country status "Not signed" on a treaty This status means that the country has neither signed nor committed to a treaty.

2. Country status "Signed" on a treaty This status means that the country accepts a treaty without a legal commitment.

3. Country status "Approved" on a treaty This status means that the country has legally committed to a treaty.

This status comprises one of the following actions defined by UNODA:

- "Ratification" is an act of formal confirmation, where a country consents to be legally bound to a treaty.
- "Accession" means that a country accepts to become a party to a treaty that has been signed by other states, not by the country itself. It has the same legal effect as ratification.
- "Succession" means that a newly formed country adopts the treaty obligations of a predecessor state.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (24) [FONTE: Tehran Times, 15/06/2025]

## **Iran reaffirms commitment to peaceful nuclear development despite attacks**



TEHRAN – The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has reiterated its unwavering commitment to advancing peaceful nuclear technology for the benefit of the Iranian people, despite recent hostile actions by enemies.

In a post on its official account on the social platform X, the AEOI declared: "Iran stands firm... Relying on the determination of our nuclear scientists, we will continue the path of developing peaceful nuclear technology with strength and resolve. The cowardly attacks by enemies are no match for the will of this nation."



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (25) [FONTE: Tehran Times, 15/06/2025]

## **Global outcry intensifies as Israel's aggression on Iran draws widespread condemnation**



TEHRAN – In the early hours of Friday, the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked act of military aggression against the sovereign territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, martyring revered commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and prominent nuclear scientists, alongside civilians.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (26) [FONTE: Tehran Times, 15/06/2025]

The regional response has been swift and unequivocal, with nations across West Asia and beyond condemning Israel's assault and expressing solidarity with Iran.

Pakistan strongly condemned the "unjustified Israeli attacks," describing them as "a brazen violation of Iran's sovereignty."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated on X that the attack "has shaken the foundations of international law as well as the conscience of humanity, and gravely undermines regional stability and international security."

He added, "The assault on Iran is a flagrant breach of international norms and a threat to regional peace. Pakistan expresses firm solidarity with Iran in these testing times."

Further reinforcing this stance, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif urged Muslim nations to forge unity and confront Tel Aviv collectively, warning that failure to act would result in "devastating consequences for the entire Islamic world."

Speaking during a National Assembly session, Asif emphasized Pakistan's deep ties with Iran, calling it "our brother," and declared, "We stand with Iran in every trial. Their pain is our pain, their grief is our grief."

He called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene an emergency meeting and formulate a unified stance, criticizing Muslim countries maintaining relations with the regime, saying, "These relations must be severed. Israel's hands are stained with the blood of Muslims. We must not be shaking that hand."

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (27) [FONTE: Tehran Times, 15/06/2025]

Straight Truth WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

## TEHRAN TIMES

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### Israelis in Shelters Iranians in the Streets

By Esmail Baqaei, spokesman of Iran's foreign ministry

- Israel's war of aggression and Iran's legitimate response
- Leader appoints new commanders following assassinations of top Iranian generals in Israeli attacks
- Nationwide ceremony honors martyrs of Zionist regime's air strikes on Iranian cities
- Global condemnation floods in following Israel's blatant aggression on Iran
- Oman confirms collapse of nuclear talks after US-Israeli coordinated assault
- Iran's response and the right to nuclear deterrence in the face of a crumbling Zionist entity

By Najah Mohammed Ali

- Biography of senior generals assassinated in Israeli strike
- Prominent scientists who were a thorn in Israel's throat
- Innocent lives lost in Israel's illegal strikes on Iran

### Iran begins retaliatory strikes against Israel after the regime kills civilians, officials, and scientists in direct aggression

## As Long as It Takes

Explosions resulting from the Iranian missiles hitting the heart of Tel Aviv on Friday night.

Pages 2-3-4-5

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (28) [FONTE: CNN, 13/06/2025]

**Three of Iran's most powerful men killed as Israel targets top military and nuclear leadership**



CNN —

Iran's highest-ranking military officer, the head of its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps, and a former national security chief have all been killed in Israel's unprecedented [Operation Rising Lion](#).



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (29) [FONTE: CNN, 13/06/2025]

## **Major General Hossein Salami**

As the head of the secretive Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami, was one of the most powerful men in Iran,

overseeing its most potent military arm and reporting directly to its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Born in 1960, according to a US sanctions docket, Salami had headed the secretive and IRGC since 2019.

The position saw him helming one of the most powerful tools wielded by the Iranian state, which has been instrumental in crushing dissent at home and projecting Iran's power abroad.

Analysts say the IRGC funds and supports a vast network of militias across the region which it uses to strike at US and other military personnel across the Middle East.

The IRGC is also believed to provide materials and support to Yemen's Houthis, enabling the group to strike [international shipping in the Red Sea](#) and launch missiles and drones at Israel.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (30) [FONTE: CNN, 13/06/2025]

## **Major General Mohammad Bagheri**

Since 2016 Mohammad Bagheri had served as the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, which IISS estimated could call on more than 500,000 active personnel.

The General Staff is "the most senior military body in Iran, which implements policy and monitors and coordinates activities within the armed forces", according to a US Treasury document laying out sanctions against Bagheri in 2019.

Bagheri was sanctioned along with nine others close to Ayatollah Khamenei "who have for decades oppressed the Iranian people, exported terrorism, and advanced destabilizing policies around the world," the document said.

Photos published by Iran's Tasnim news outlet showed him allegedly meeting with Iranian troops fighting on the ground alongside government forces in Syria in 2017.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (31) [FONTE: CNN, 13/06/2025]

## **Ali Shamkhani**

Ali Shamkhani was a close aide to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and represented Tehran at talks which sealed a landmark agreement to restore diplomatic ties with foe Saudi Arabia.

Iranian state TV network IRINN confirmed his death following Israel's unprecedented strikes on Friday.

Shamkhani served as the country's top national security official for a decade from 2013, and before that served in a number of important roles, including in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the ministry of defense.

He had been a [rising star of Iranian diplomacy](#), well known in foreign-policy circles in Washington and Europe.

Shamkhani represented Iran in China-brokered talks with Saudi officials that led to the two countries agreeing to re-establish diplomatic ties after years of hostility.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (32) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## **Israel attacked three key Iranian nuclear facilities. Did it strike a decisive blow?**

Israel's unprecedented attacks on Iran had at their core an elusive and high-risk goal: eradicating the country's controversial nuclear program.

Israel targeted [three key Iranian nuclear facilities](#) – Natanz, Isfahan and Fordow – and a number of top scientists involved in nuclear research and development.

The extent of the damage – and whether Iran's nuclear program can survive – is not immediately clear. An Israeli military official said at a briefing Saturday that strikes on Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz and Isfahan were able to damage the sites "significantly;" Iran said that damage to the facilities was limited but acknowledged the deaths of nine experts.

"We are at a key point where, if we miss it, we will have no way to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons that will threaten our existence," Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Friday.

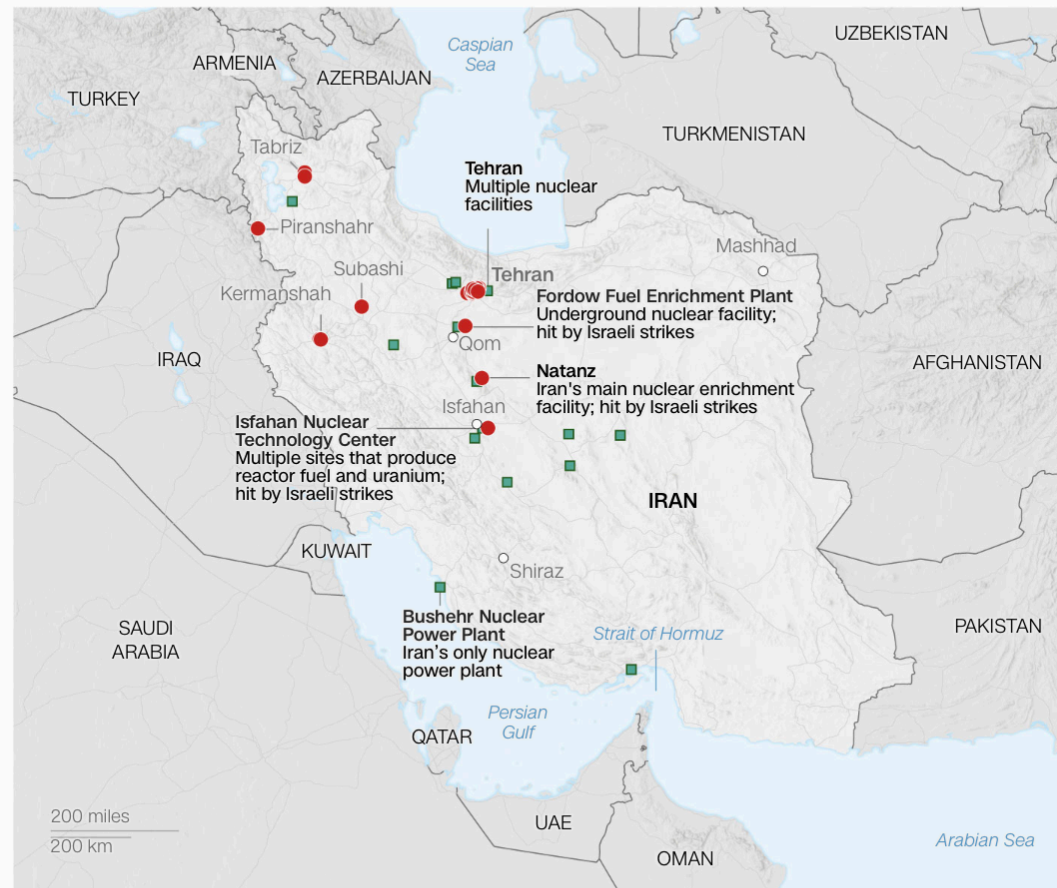


# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (33) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## Areas in Iran hit by Israeli strikes

Israel has launched an operation targeting Iran's nuclear program and military sites around the country.

● Israeli strikes in Iran ■ Iranian nuclear facilities



Source: CNN analysis of social media, The Institute for the Study of War with AEI's Critical Threats Project, International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran state media  
Graphic: Renée Rigdon, Lou Robinson and Soph Warnes, CNN

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (34) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## **Natanz**

Initial assessments indicate that Israel's strikes on Iran's Natanz nuclear facility were extremely effective, going far beyond superficial damage to exterior structures and knocking out the electricity on the lower levels where the centrifuges used to enrich uranium are stored, two US officials told CNN.

"This was a full-spectrum blitz," said another source familiar with the assessments.

The strikes destroyed the above-ground part of Natanz's Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant, a sprawling site that has been operating since 2003 and where Iran had been enriching uranium up to 60% purity, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Weapons-grade uranium is enriched to 90%.

CNN obtained radar imagery from a space imaging company, Umbra, which captured damage to several areas of the Natanz facility. Other satellite imagery reviewed by CNN showed the same damage more clearly, with black plumes of smoke visibly rising from multiple locations across the site.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (35) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## Damage at the Natanz nuclear facility

CNN obtained satellite imagery from a space imaging company, Maxar Technologies, which showed that several areas of the facility were damaged in the strikes.



Source: Maxar Technologies  
Graphic: Amy O'Kruk, CNN

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (36) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## **Isfahan**

The extent of damage at the Isfahan nuclear site in central Iran was more difficult to parse in the hours after it was struck, with conflicting claims over the attack's impact emerging in Israel and Iran.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesperson of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said Saturday that damage at the site – Iran's largest nuclear research complex – was limited.

Equipment at the two facilities was moved in anticipation of the strikes, Kamalvandi said. A shed at the facility caught fire, he added, and there is no risk of contamination.

But Israel were more bullish; an IDF official said during a Saturday briefing that the site took significant damage.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (37) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## Damage at the Isfahan nuclear facility

CNN obtained satellite imagery from a space imaging company, Maxar Technologies, which showed that several areas of the facility were damaged in the strikes.



Source: Maxar Technologies  
Graphic: Renée Rigdon, CNN

CNN Graphic

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (38) [FONTE: CNN, 14/06/2025]

## **Fordow**

The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant is a far more difficult site to target. The plant is buried deep in the mountains near Qom, in northern Iran, and houses advanced centrifuges used to enrich uranium up to high grades of purity.

Israel targeted the site during its Friday attacks, but the IAEA said it was not impacted and the IDF has not claimed any significant damage there. Iranian air defenses shot down an Israeli drone in the vicinity of the plant, Iranian state media Press TV reported Friday evening.

Fordow's fate could be pivotal to the overall success of Israel's attacks.

In 2023, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that uranium particles enriched to 83.7% purity – which is close to the 90% enrichment levels needed to make a nuclear bomb – [had been found in Fordow.](#)

"If Fordow remains operational, Israel's attacks may barely slow Iran's path to the bomb," James M. Acton, the co-director of the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote on Friday.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (39) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]

## Satellite imagery reveals damage to key Iran nuclear sites

Maxar / BBC

Satellite imagery shared with BBC Verify has provided a clearer picture of damage inflicted on two of Iran's key nuclear sites as well as other military targets.

Imagery from two different providers shows damage to the Natanz nuclear facility as well as a missile site south of the city of Tabriz - hit in the first round of strikes against Iran on Friday.

Other images show damage to other known missile bases.

Israel is continuing to target numerous sites across Iran, which has prompted [retaliatory strikes](#).

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (40) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]

## **Nuclear sites**

Newly released optical satellite imagery from Maxar shows the clearest picture yet of what happened at key Iranian nuclear sites at Natanz and Isfahan.

At Natanz, we can see damage to the pilot fuel enrichment plant and an electrical substation, according to analysis by the Institute for Space and International Security (ISIS).

This follows on from earlier analysis of radar imagery that first showed the damage.

On Friday the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, told the UN Security Council that "the above-ground part of the pilot fuel enrichment plant, where Iran was producing uranium enriched up to 60% U-235, has been destroyed".

Uranium-235 is essential both for nuclear power stations and also for nuclear weapons.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (41) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]

Damage to Natanz nuclear site



Source: Maxar, Institute for Space and International Security



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (42) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]

Justin Bronk of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), told BBC Verify that, while inconclusive, the pattern of explosions "would fit with penetrating bombs being used. Probably GBU-31(V)3s or even possibly more specialised penetrating GBU-28s".

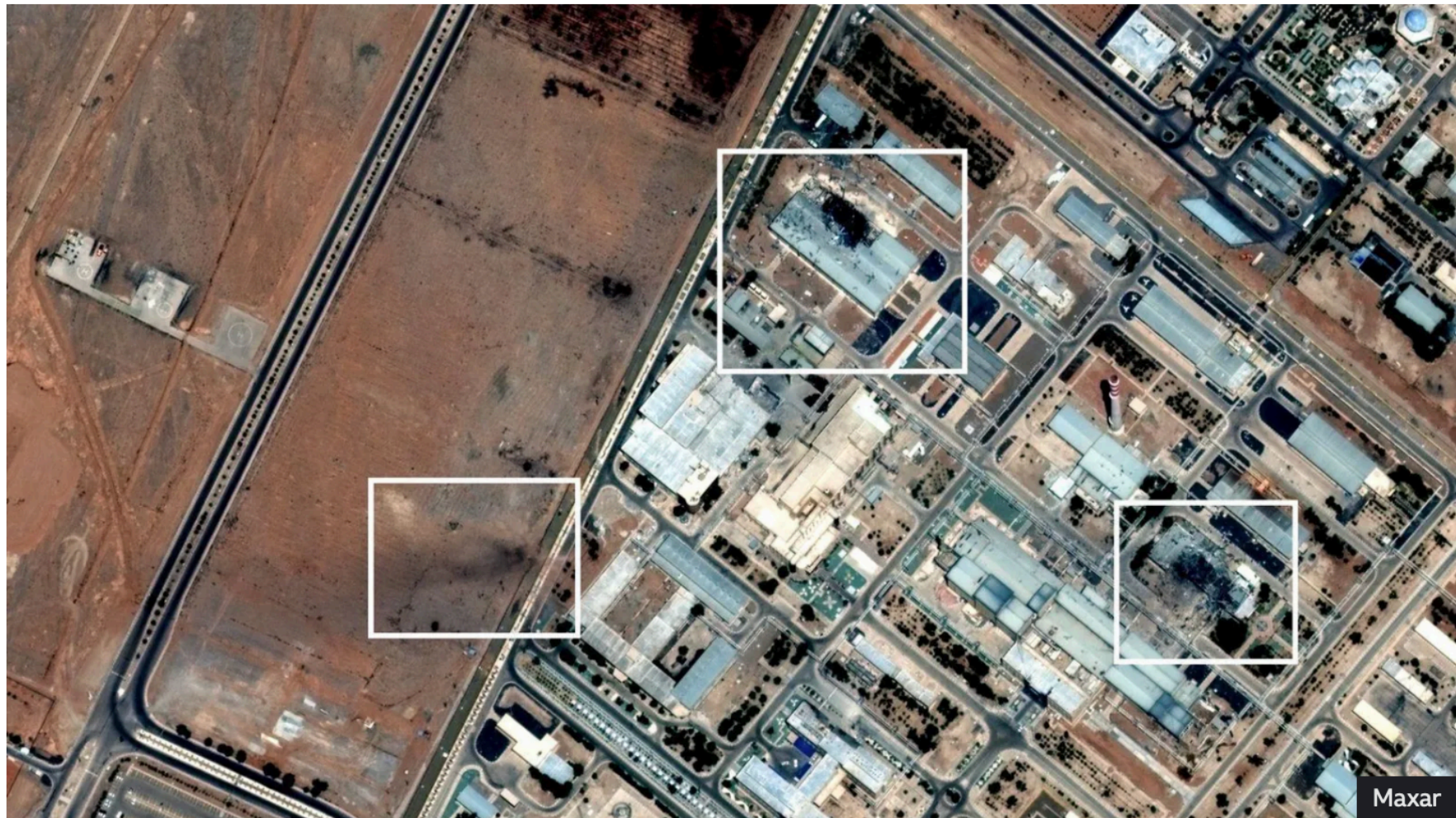
These munitions, known as "bunker busters", have been used by Israel in the past to target underground facilities in both Gaza and Lebanon.

However, Mr Grossi said there is "no indication of a physical attack on the underground cascade hall containing part of the pilot fuel enrichment plant and the main fuel enrichment plant".

On Saturday, the IAEA confirmed that [four "critical buildings" were damaged at Isfahan](#), including the Uranium conversion facility and the fuel plate fabrication plant.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (43) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]



Satellite imagery showing visible damage to structures at Isfahan

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (44) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]

## **Missile/Radar sites**

Imagery and analysis captured on Friday by Umbra Space reveals damage to several parts of a missile complex near the city of Tabriz in north-western Iran.

The damaged sites include weapon storage areas, missile shelters and silos, according to the annotated graphic provided by Umbra with analysis by geospatial intelligence consultant Chris Biggers.

In Kermanshah, low resolution imagery from Planet Labs shows what appears to be extensive burn marks to an area near a known missile base, and possible damage to two buildings.

Footage we verified from the same site on Friday showed at least three large plumes of smoke rising from the base.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (45) [FONTE: BBC / Maxar, 15/06/2025]



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (46) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

## **The nuclear mountain that haunts Israel**

Buried half a kilometre underground, Iran's Fordow enrichment facility is the ultimate test of Israeli air power



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (47) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

Built in secret, Fordow's existence was publicly unveiled in September 2009 during a moment of high drama when US, British and French officials declassified intelligence showing that Iran had covertly built a secret plant deep inside a mountain that was "inconsistent with a peaceful programme".

The finding, which cemented what Britain's then-prime minister Gordon Brown called Iran's "serial deception", was so dramatic that it led to a rare Russian rebuke of Iran and a warning from China.

Iran stood firm, at the time. "What we did was completely legal," said then president Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad, adding: "What business is it of yours to tell us what to do?"

Even so, Fordow came to lie at the centre of subsequent international attempts to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

It led to increased UN sanctions and was at the heart of a multilateral 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, between Iran and world powers including the US, UK, France, Russia, China and Germany



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (48) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

Analysts believe that Fordow, if it is not destroyed by Israeli attacks, could form the centre of Iranian efforts to “break out”. The country could withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, halt co-operation with the IAEA, and quickly build a nuclear bomb.

Iran has previously threatened just such a response if its nuclear facilities were ever targeted, although such a move could draw the US military into the Israeli campaign.

Adding to the risks is that Fordow is not the only ultra-secure facility that Iran can fall back on. Tehran has recently been building an even deeper and better protected facility into Kūh-e Kolang Gaz Lā, also known as Pickaxe mountain, a few kilometres south of Natanz.

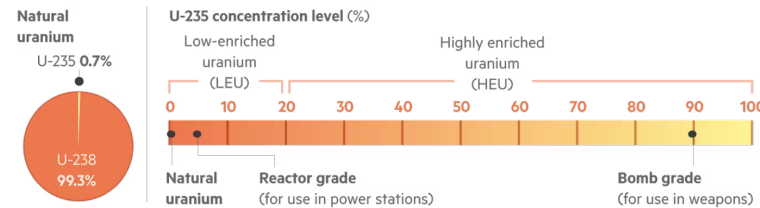
While Fordow is thought to have two tunnel entrances, Pickaxe has at least four, making it harder to seal off entrances by bombing. Its underground halls also have more floorspace.

Some fear the facility, which Iran has so far barred the IAEA from inspecting, could even be used to assemble a nuclear weapon while Iran was under attack.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (49) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

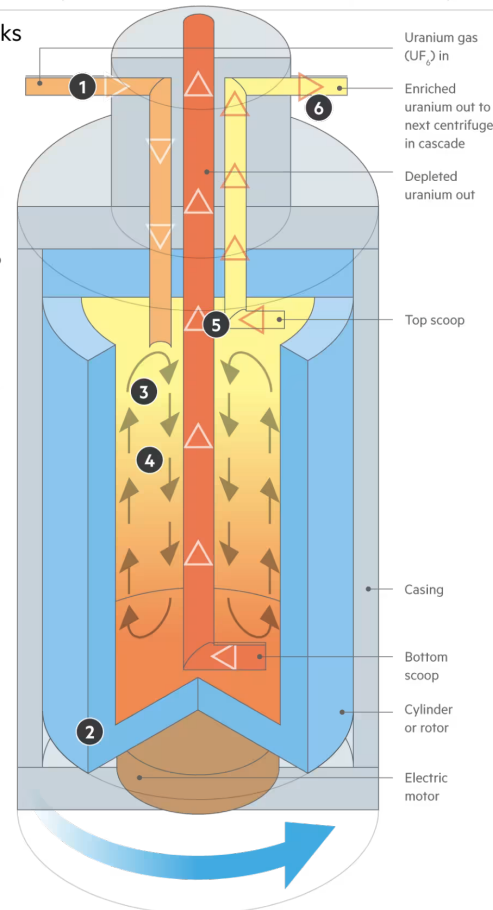
## Enriching uranium

Natural uranium contains two main isotopes, U-238 and a much smaller amount of U-235 – the fissionable isotope used to fuel nuclear reactors or weapons. The enrichment process increases the concentration of U-235. Gas centrifuges are widely used to enrich uranium.



## How a gas centrifuge works

- 1 Uranium is converted into gas, known as  $UF_6$ , and introduced into the centrifuge via its rotor
- 2 The rotor then spins at up to 60,000 rpm, with the outside edge spinning faster than the speed of sound
- 3 The heavier U-238 is pushed to the outside of the cylinder and the U-235 concentrates around its central axis
- 4 Gas circulation moves the U-235 towards the top and the U-238 towards the bottom
- 5 The enriched uranium and depleted uranium are thereby separated, before being siphoned out of the centrifuge through separate tubes
- 6 The centrifuges are connected by pipes to form cascades, which all spin inside a vacuum. The U-235 is further enriched as it passes through each centrifuge



Sources: IAEA; ISIS; FAS; World Nuclear Association; FT research  
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# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (50) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

## The fallout from Israel's strikes on Iranian energy sites

Attacks on oil and gas infrastructure threaten further turmoil for markets



Israel attacked the Shahr-e Khatam fuel and gasoline depot in north Tehran © Getty Images

A series of Israeli attacks on Iran's oil and gas facilities is threatening further turmoil for markets, as concerns grow of escalation in a region that holds half of the world's oil reserves.

### What was hit?

On Saturday, [Israel](#) hit two gas processing facilities on Iran's south coast that process gas from South Pars, the world's largest natural gasfield.



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (51) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (52) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

One of the field's offshore platforms paused production after the attack, but was reported to be unaffected. The facilities take gas from the field and process it into methane for domestic use, as well as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and ethane, a feedstock for petrochemical plants.

Israel also attacked the Shahrān fuel and gasoline depot, in a middle-class neighbourhood in north Tehran, and storage tanks in Shahr Rey in the south of the city.

The Shana news agency reported that the situation at the South Pars field and at the oil depots in Tehran was “fully under control”. It added that the level of fuel in the Tehran facilities “was low” at the time of the attack.

It quoted a spokesperson for the Tehran fire department saying that the fires seen in Shahrān were not caused by a gasoline explosion but another unnamed oil derivative.

Officials at the Shahid Tondguyan petrochemical plant and the Tabriz oil refinery both denied that they had been attacked.

## **What is the impact?**

The attacks suggest Israel is attempting to weaken and disrupt [Iran's](#) domestic gas and fuel supply chains to cause shortages, rather than pursuing the country's oil and gas production or exports, which would rock the markets.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (53) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]



# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (54) [FONTE: FT, 15/06/2025]

## **How might the Iranians retaliate?**

Israel's own energy infrastructure is vulnerable. On Sunday, Bazan, the operator of one of Israel's largest oil refineries in Haifa, said pipelines and transmission lines to the complex in the northern port city had been damaged by Iranian missile attacks.

Meanwhile, Iran has in the past repeatedly threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz. Most analysts believe this is extremely unlikely, since it would upset all the countries in the region that rely on the route and China, Iran's largest customer for its oil.

So far, there has been little sign of disruption, but Iran could begin to target specific ships passing through the strait. In April 2024, Iranian commandos boarded and seized the MSC Aries, a container ship it claimed was linked to Israel.

# Israel vs. Irão: o Médio Oriente à beira do precipício (55)

[FONTE: Cartoon de Roar Hagen, 13/06/2025]





# Sugestões de leitura

