



The Sabra Report

Israel Targeted Air Defense System for Iran Nuclear Site

Jerusalem Post, April 19, 2024

Recap:

Israel struck the defense systems at Iran's Natanz nuclear site today in response to Iran's April 13th launch of 300 missiles and drones at Israel.

The Context:

- ✦ On October 7th, Hamas initiated a large-scale assault on Israel, resulting in 1,200 deaths, mainly civilians, and the taking of 253 hostages into Gaza. Despite Israel's counter-offensive to dismantle Hamas and rescue the hostages, 129 remain captive, and many are presumed dead. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah and Houthi terrorist groups quickly joined the war and have been attacking Israel ever since [1].
- ✦ Iran attacked Israel with over 300 drones and missiles on Saturday night, marking a serious escalation in the ongoing conflict by departing from its strategy of indirect attacks via proxies. Despite the large-scale assault, Israel and its allies intercepted 99% of the projectiles, resulting in only one injury.
- ✦ Global leaders, including President Joe Biden, have urged Israel to show restraint to avoid a broader conflict [2], especially given Iran's proximity to acquiring nuclear capabilities. Tehran maintains that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful ends, a stance not believed by Israel and much of the international community [3].
- ✦ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel reserves "the right to protect itself" following the Iranian attack [4]. President Biden told Netanyahu that the US would not participate in offensive action against Iran [5] although "the United States is committed to Israel's security." Several Gulf States, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, provided vital information that was key to Israel's defense [6]. The United States announced new sanctions on Iran targeting its drone production and European Union leaders followed suit [7].
- ✦ Israelis were split over an appropriate response to Iran's attack. 52% believe Israel shouldn't respond, while 48% favor Israel responding even if it means escalating tensions [8].

Conversation Points:

- ✦ Why did Hezbollah not join Iran's attack on Israel?
- ✦ Would other countries heed international appeals for restraint following such an attack?
- ✦ Is defensive action enough to ensure Israel's security?
- ✦ Are targeted sanctions on specific industries and people enough to deter Iran's hostile ambitions?

Notes:

1. [Report: Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, provided intelligence on Iran attack](#), STUART WINER, Times of Israel, 15 April 2024
2. [Israel considers response to weekend attack](#), Kevin Liptak, CNN, April 18, 2024
3. [Iran warns it may revise its 'nuclear doctrine,' threatens to hit Israeli nuclear sites](#), Times of Israel, April 18, 2024
4. [Ibid.](#)
5. [Israel considers response to weekend attack](#), Kevin Liptak, CNN, April 18, 2024
6. [Report: Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, provided intelligence on Iran attack](#), STUART WINER, Times of Israel, 15 April 2024
7. [US and Britain announce new Iran sanctions after missile and drone strike on Israel](#), David Brunnstrom and Doina Chiacu, Reuters, April 18, 2024
8. [Iran warns it may change nuclear weapons stance in face of Israel, US announces sanctions](#), Kim Hjelmggaard Francesca Chambers, USA TODAY, April 18th, 2024.

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