

OAFLMUN '26

STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item:

**Escalating Security Situation Between Iran and Israel and Its
Implications for Regional Stability and Global Energy Security**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Letters**
 - 1.1. Letter from the Secretary General**
 - 1.2. Letter from the Under Secretary General**
 - 1.3. Letter from the Under Secretary General**
 - 1.4. Letter from the Academic Assistant**
- 2. Introduction to the Committee**
- 3. Introduction to the Agenda**
 - 3.1. Historical Context and Evolution of Iran-Israel Relations**
 - 3.2. Regional Stability Risks**
 - 3.3. Global Energy Security**
 - 3.4. Nuclear Dimension**
- 4. Key Players**
- 5. Timeline of Key Events**
- 6. Past Actions**
- 7. Key Terms**
- 8. Questions to be Addressed**
- 9. Further Readings**
- 10. Bibliography**

1. Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Participants of OAFLMUN'26,

It is my pleasure to announce OAFLMUN'26. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has given their utmost effort in organising this conference. As the Secretary-General of this conference, I am truly delighted and honoured to welcome you all. Our conference will be held at Özkent Akbilek Science High School from April 24th to April 26th.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is Ecrin İrem Gültop, and I am currently an 11th-grade student at Özkent Akbilek Science High School. I have been participating in Model United Nations conferences since December 2022. Throughout these experiences, I have witnessed genuine friendships, effective crisis management, proper approaches to diplomacy, and, undoubtedly, true leadership. Now, it is my turn to help a new generation of participants experience these remarkable opportunities.

The 2026 edition of OAFLMUN will host the following committees: NATO, HCC, UNWOMEN, JCC, UNSC, UNICEF, UNODC, and DISEC. I look forward to welcoming you all to an unforgettable conference experience where diplomacy, leadership, and collaboration will truly come to life.

Yours sincerely,

Ecrin İrem Gültop

Secretary-General of OAFLMUN'26

1.2. Letter from the Co-Under Secretary General

Dear delegates,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to be serving as your Under Secretary General in this model conference. I am confident, and have great hope, that your insights and ideas will spark meaningful conversations during the committee sessions.

All I ask from you is to read the study guide carefully and thoroughly, and of course do your own research about the topics we provided when necessary. Although there is limited unbiased and unfiltered information and data regarding the majority of the agenda item, me and my academic team tried our best to provide you with the best we could. I also want to take a little moment to thank my amazing co-USG Cemre Su for her incredible work and help.

The question of the Iranian-Israeli War has always been so significant for almost the entire world as it affects us all majorly. Moreover, I believe that you, my incredible delegates, will be able to discuss and tackle the situation in a satisfying manner.

Once again, I must express my happiness for being your Under secretary General and having you as my delegates.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at munalisa1289@gmail.com for anything related to the committee,

Warm regards,

Muna AL ISA,

Under Secretary General of UNSC

1.3. Letter from the Co-Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council. This committee values every word, every decision affects international stability, and each delegate must rise above personal bias to act for the common good. Our agenda focuses on the Iranian -Israeli . This conflict is a significant issue of our century and a test of the world's commitment, compassion, and skill in diplomacy.

In this room, you will navigate one of the most complex geopolitical situations we face today. You will address issues related to sovereignty, humanitarian crises, energy security, regional stability, and the fragile balance between deterrence and dialogue. These discussions need not only knowledge and preparation but also patience, integrity, and the courage to find solutions where others might see a deadlock.

I encourage each of you to approach this committee with a calm mind and a steady voice. Remember, real diplomacy is not about noise or pressure; it depends on clarity, empathy, and strategic thinking. You are here not only to represent your nations but also to embody the ideals of international cooperation even when tensions rise, when crises occur unexpectedly, and when reaching an agreement seems tough.

The UNSC is difficult by nature. It will challenge you to improve your skills and think beyond traditional methods. However, I assure you that you are fully capable of facing these challenges. Trust your preparation, trust your understanding, and above all, trust your ability to respond with poise.

Throughout our sessions, my team and I will foster a fair, structured, and engaging environment. You have support and guidance, and you are not alone in this journey. Your presence here reflects your dedication, intelligence, and readiness to tackle the pressing issues in our world.

I am confident that each of you will take on the responsibility of this council seriously. I look forward to seeing the solutions you develop, the alliances you build, and the leadership you show.

Welcome to the Security Council. Let us begin our work with clarity, discipline, and hope.

Sincerely,

Cemre Su Öcal

Under Secretary General of UNSC

cemre2020toprak@gmail.com

1.4. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to OAFLMUN'26. My name is Yusuf Yarşı, and I will be serving as your Academic Assistant throughout this conference. I am honored to guide you as we embark on a challenging yet intellectually rewarding journey.

The agenda before you, addressing the ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel, demands not only a comprehensive understanding of geopolitical dynamics but also a high level of diplomatic awareness. This topic encompasses complex historical grievances, regional power balances, and global security concerns. Therefore, I strongly encourage each of you to approach debate with thorough research, open-mindedness, and a commitment to constructive dialogue.

As delegates, your role extends beyond simply representing national interests; you are expected to engage critically, propose innovative yet realistic solutions, and uphold the principles of diplomacy and respect. Meaningful debate arises from both strong argumentation and the ability to listen and adapt.

Should you require any academic guidance or clarification during the conference, I will be ready to support you. I wish you all a productive conference and look forward to witnessing the depth of discussion you will bring to committee.

Warm regards,

Yusuf Yarşı, Your Academic Assistant

2. Introduction to the Committee



UNSC
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) with its main purpose and responsibility being maintaining international peace and security. The Council represents the global commitment to collective security and the enforcement of international law, while symbolizing the unity of nations in addressing peace threats. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

Moreover, the Security Council holds the power of imposing sanctions on countries or individuals involved in actions threatening peace, including arms embargoes, travel bans, financial restrictions, as well as authorizing the use of force, in order to maintain and restore international peace and security, which also includes peacekeeping missions and military interventions.

The Council consists of 15 member states, including 5 permanent members, often referred to as the “P5.” The P5 includes the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, and the French Republic. In addition to the 10 non-permanent member states, being selected by the UN General Assembly for a duration of two years, meaning to represent the various regions, furtherly ensuring broader geographical representation.

3. Introduction to the Agenda

Before moving on with the remainder of the study guide, readers must keep in mind that due to the agenda's nature and its dynamic, the information provided by the media changes drastically as time passes. Therefore, the last date of the updates mentioned would be the official starting date of the war between Israel and Iran, which is February 28, 2026. Other incidents happening after the mentioned would be overlooked and the delegates of this model committee are expected to act according to the incidents up until February 28, 2026.

Furthermore, the existence of neutral and definitely rightful sources on this specific agenda is extremely difficult; thus, readers may find variations of information in different sources or news articles. Hence, delegates are expected to act according to the information provided by the study guide in order to avoid confusion during the committee sessions. However, with that in mind, it is not completely safe to assume that every information mentioned in this study guide is downright unbiased, that is due to language barriers and the very little existence of neutral information platforms.

3.1. Historical Context and Evolution of Iran-Israel Relations

Although Israel and Iran are now in a conflict, it is safe to say that the two parties had good diplomatic relations up until Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. One of the first states to recognize Israel's existence, after its foundation in 1948, was Iran. However, this dynamic shifted after the Iranian Islamic Revolution was brought to Iran by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The agreements between the two parties were cancelled by the Iranian regime, although some sources state that the parties' cooperation did not exactly end after the revolution as they shared similar interests and common enemies.

Israel's approach and actions on the Palestinian conflict were criticized by Khomeini. Despite the aforementioned conditions, Israel and Iran's collaboration did not end there. In the 1980s,

Israel sent secret arms shipments worth billions to Iran during its war with Iraq, to counter Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, Israel became the conduit for American military equipment sent to Iran during the Iran-Contra affair. Even though the two parties' cooperation survived until the 1980-90s, as stated before, Iran's perspective of Israel grew progressively worse, as Iran aimed to be favored by regional Arab states.

In 1982, Israel sent troops into southern Lebanon to intervene in the country's civil war. In response, Khomeini dispatched Iranian Revolutionary Guards to the Lebanese capital, Beirut, to support local Shiite militias. The Hezbollah militia, which grew out of this support, is today regarded as a direct Iranian proxy in Lebanon. In 1994, Hezbollah bombed a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires on Iranian orders. This action resulted in the death of 85 people. Hezbollah also bombed Israel's embassy in Argentina in 1992.

During the 1990s and the 2000s, Palestinian Islamic groups, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, received support and backing from Iran. Notably, Palestinian Islamic Jihad is said to be a fundamentalist paramilitary group whose ideology was moulded by Iran's Islamic revolution.

A year after his election in 2005, the Iranian headliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hosted a conference that denied the Holocaust in Tehran, the capital of Iran. During the Lebanon War of 2006, Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRG) directed Hezbollah's resistance to Israel. IRG's head was in Lebanon throughout the conflict and he narrowly survived an Israeli strike targeting the chief of Hezbollah.

In 2010, Israel launched a cyber attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. This attack damaged a fifth of Iran's centrifuges. Again, in the 2010s, one of Israel's service intelligences sought to sabotage Iran's nuclear programme through an assassination campaign of nuclear scientists.

It is also mentioned that Iran benefited from the unstable situation caused by the “Arab Spring” to form an “Axis of Resistance” incorporating the Houthis in Yemen and the Assad regime in Syria.

Iran stated that there was no prior warning from Hamas given to them before the attacks during October of 2023. The first direct clash between Iran and Israel was during April of 2024. On April 1, Israel struck Iran’s consulate in Damascus, killing 1316 people. In response, Iran launched hundreds of drones at Israel.

Tensions grew again, as Iran fired 200 missiles at Israel. The strike was made in retaliation for Israel’s killing of Hezbollah’s Nasrallah in Beirut and the death of Hamas’s political leader who was killed in an explosion in Tehran. The death of Hamas’s leader was said to be an act of Israel by Iranian officials.

In November of 2024, Israel and Hezbollah reached a ceasefire deal to end the fighting and begin the withdrawal of Israel Defense Forces troops and Hezbollah fighters from the border of Israel and Lebanon.

In December of 2024, that time’s Syrian regime fell after a rebellion led by the militant Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, resulting in them taking power. Israeli troops entered southern Syria and occupied positions along the Israeli-Syrian buffer zone as Israeli airstrikes began targeting Syrian anti-aircraft and other military equipment across the country.

Israel and Hamas reached a ceasefire agreement in January of 2025; the initial stage involved the exchange of Israeli hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners by Israel and the surge of aid into Gaza. The following day, Trump won the elections in America and was appointed as the president of the United States (U.S.). In addition to Trump’s presidency, on the 29th of January, Ahmed al-Sharaa was appointed as the president of Syria.

In March of 2025, Israel broke the ceasefire between them and Hamas by launching attacks and blocking food and other essential survival materials from reaching to Palestinian citizens.

In April, the United States and Iran initiated indirect nuclear negotiations in Oman. However, these negotiations were soon to be suspended when Israeli airstrikes targeted Iranian nuclear and military sites while assassinating several high-level security officials. In response to that, Iran launched the first of many retaliatory ballistic missile strikes at Israeli cities amid ongoing Israeli airstrikes in Iran.

The United States struck three Iranian nuclear facilities (Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow). The heavily fortified Fordow facility is vulnerable only to U.S. bunker-busting munitions, prompting Israeli leaders to seek U.S. military participation in its bombing campaign.

Iran retaliates; Trump announces ceasefire. Iran fires missiles at a U.S. airbase, Al-Udeid, in Qatar. Trump announces a ceasefire between Iran and Israel. However, this ceasefire was unsuccessful as the tension continues to grow between Iran and Israel, and now with the addition of the United States, Lebanon, and Syria too.

The 2026 Iran War begins as U.S. and Israeli forces began conducting joint strikes on Iran midmorning on February 28, 2026. The strikes reached nearly 900 in just the first 12 hours of what the United States dubbed Operation Epic Fury. The attacks targeted Iranian missiles and air defenses, other military infrastructure, and Iranian leadership. According to U.S. and Israeli officials, the timing of the initial attack was tied in part to the ability to target Ali Khamenei, before he would go into hiding. Khamenei was killed in the first wave of strikes on February 28, as were dozens of other top Iranian officials. The attacks led to a lot of discussions and controversy when it was reported that a girls' school in a town east of Bandar Abbas was struck, resulting in the killing of about 170 people. U.S. forces are believed to have conducted the

strikes, according to a preliminary investigation by the U.S. military, while targeting adjacent buildings that belonged to an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) naval base.

3.2. Regional Stability Risks

One of the most significant and expected problems this war causes is its interference with the regional stability of states neighboring Iran and Israel. Even when those states are unwilling to participate or support a certain party during the conflict, they face difficulties in both remaining neutral and protecting their region.

Some states that were forced to take part in this war or were/are still affected by the ongoing war are already in a fragile situation (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen). Iran's network of proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, various militias in Iraq and Syria, and the Houthis in Yemen, have become central to its deterrent strategy. However, their military activity further weakens state institutions and deepens local conflicts. The aforementioned escalating strikes along the Israel–Lebanon border or renewed fighting in southwestern Syria stand as showcasing examples for this problem. Large-scale displacement, humanitarian crises, and internal unrest in areas where the mentioned countries already face challenges focusing on are of the possibilities when the Iranian-Israeli conflict is still going on.

Another major risk is the acceleration of regional militarization and an arms race. As Iran and Israel push their respective capabilities, neighboring countries are under pressure to invest more in air defenses, missile systems, cyber capabilities, and surveillance technologies to protect their own territory. This dynamic, while raising the overall level of tension, increases the chance of miscalculation. Because more weapons, more overlapping operations, and more “red lines” mean that even a limited incident could be misinterpreted and trigger a wider escalation as seen in history before. At the same time, nuclear-related concerns are growing, as Iran's

advancing nuclear program and Israel's strategic posture introduce risks of a potential nuclear-dimensioned standoff, which is to profoundly reshape regional security.

Furthermore, the rivalry also reshapes regional alliances and fractures diplomatic efforts. Gulf states, Turkey, and other regional powers are forced to recalibrate their position. This hedging behavior weakens the coherence of regional security structures and makes it harder to build common fronts for conflict-prevention or arms-control initiatives. Moreover, attempts at normalization between Israel and some Arab states are increasingly strained, as domestic publics in the Arab world react strongly to Gaza-related developments and view any overt security cooperation with Israel as politically risky in the face of Iran-backed narratives. As a result, multilateral forums and diplomatic channels that could help manage crises, such as regional security dialogues or renewed nuclear-related negotiations, become harder to sustain.

Moreover, the conflict increases the risk of large-scale humanitarian and refugee crises, which themselves become security threats. Prolonged fighting in border areas, in addition to attacks on infrastructure and energy systems, can displace hundreds of thousands of civilians and stretch the capacities of host communities and neighboring governments.

3.3. Global Energy Security

Energy security is a very important part of the Iran–Israel conflict, even if it is sometimes not discussed as much as military issues. The Middle East is one of the main regions in the world for oil and gas. Because of this, any tension in this region can affect the whole world. Iran is a key country when it comes to energy. It has large oil and gas reserves and is located near the Strait of Hormuz. This is a narrow sea route where a big part of the world's oil passes through every day. If something happens in this area, even for a short time, it can affect global oil supply and increase prices. One of the main risks is disruption. During times of tension, there are concerns that Iran could block or threaten this route. Even if the route is not fully closed,

military activity or attacks on ships can create fear and uncertainty. This alone is enough to affect energy markets and cause prices to rise. Israel is not a major oil producer, but it still plays a role in regional energy. In recent years, it has developed natural gas resources and energy projects in the Eastern Mediterranean. However, conflict with Iran, either directly or through other groups, can put these projects at risk. Energy facilities like pipelines, ports, and offshore platforms can become targets.

Another important issue is attacks on energy infrastructure. In modern conflicts, energy sites are often targeted because they are very important for the economy. If a refinery, pipeline, or storage facility is damaged, it can quickly affect both the country and the region. These kinds of attacks can also increase tensions and lead to further conflict. Sanctions are also part of the energy security issue.

Iran has faced many international sanctions, especially on its oil exports. These sanctions reduce how much oil Iran can sell, but they do not completely stop it. Instead, they change how and where Iran sells its energy. At the same time, limiting supply can also affect global markets and increase prices. Energy security also affects countries outside the region. Many countries depend on oil and gas from the Middle East. When tensions rise, these countries may face higher costs and supply problems. This can push them to look for new energy sources or build stronger reserves. And there is the risk of a larger conflict. If the situation between Iran and Israel grows into a wider regional war, the impact on energy could be much bigger. More routes and facilities could be affected at the same time, leading to serious global consequences.

3.4. Nuclear Dimension

The nuclear dimension of the Iran–Israel conflict is one of the most important and sensitive aspects of the agenda. While the situation concerns the nuclear technology itself, the primary concern is about how states in the region see threats, make decisions, and respond to each other. What makes this issue difficult is that every action taken to slow down the nuclear program can also create new risks. One key issue is the impact of Israeli and US-linked strikes on Iran’s nuclear program. In recent years, there have been different types of operations targeting Iran’s nuclear infrastructure. These include cyber attacks, sabotage, and direct strikes on facilities or key individuals. In the short term, these actions have had clear effects. Some facilities were damaged, certain activities were delayed, and Iran’s progress was slowed down. but, these strikes did not stop the program completely. Instead, Iran adapted. Rather than giving up or reducing its activities, Iran changed the way it operates. The program became more flexible and less dependent on a small number of visible sites. This means that while strikes may delay progress, they also make the program harder to track and control in the long run.

This leads to the second major issue which is new underground facilities. Iran has increasingly invested in building nuclear sites deep underground, often inside mountains. These facilities are designed to survive airstrikes and continue operating even during conflict. From a military point of view, this makes them much harder to target. From a political point of view, it creates more uncertainty. When nuclear activities move underground, it becomes more difficult for the international community to monitor them. Inspectors have less access, and information becomes more limited. This does not automatically mean that Iran is building nuclear weapons, but it increases suspicion. Other countries may start to assume the worst, even without clear evidence. This situation directly connects to proliferation concerns. In a region like the Middle East, countries closely watch each other’s actions. If Iran is seen as getting closer to a nuclear

weapons capability, other states may feel pressure to respond. At first, this response might not be about building nuclear weapons. It could include expanding civilian nuclear programs, improving missile systems, or strengthening alliances with powerful countries. Over time, this can lead to a dangerous situation. Some states may try to stay close to having nuclear weapons without actually building them. This is often called a “threshold” or “hedging” strategy. The problem is that if many countries start thinking this way, it becomes much harder to control nuclear risks. This brings us to the idea of a regional arms race. If one country increases its nuclear capacity, others may follow. In the case of Iran and Israel, this risk is especially high. Israel already has a policy of nuclear ambiguity, meaning it does not clearly confirm or deny its nuclear capabilities. Iran, on the other hand, continues to develop its nuclear program. This creates a tense balance. Other countries in the region may not want to fall behind. Even if they do not immediately try to build nuclear weapons, they may invest in related areas like advanced weapons systems or nuclear energy programs. Over time, this competition can grow and become harder to stop.

Another important risk is miscalculation. In such a tense environment, actions can be misunderstood. For example, a limited strike meant to delay a program could be seen as the start of a larger war. Similarly, a technical development could be seen as a military threat. When trust is low, even small steps can lead to bigger conflicts. There is the issue of international efforts to control the situation. In the past, agreements and inspections were used to limit Iran’s nuclear program and increase transparency. However, these efforts have faced many challenges, including disagreements between countries and lack of trust. As these systems weaken, countries may rely more on their own actions instead of cooperation. Overall, the nuclear dimension of the Iran–Israel conflict is not just about one country’s program. It affects the entire region. Strikes may slow progress but increase secrecy.

4. Key Players

United States of America:

The U.S. is considered to be one of the most important diplomatic and military allies to Israel. The U.S. maintains a longstanding “ironclad” security commitment to Israel. This includes repeated public statements that the U.S. will defend Israel’s security and respond to attacks on U.S. assets or allies. This can be reasoned back to the U.S. having deep political, military, and economic ties with Israel, as the country provides advanced weapons systems, intelligence sharing, and diplomatic backing in international forums.

During the 2023-26 confrontations between Israel and Iran, the U.S. was the one to provide the most support in various terms including intercepting Iranian-launched ballistic missiles and drones aimed at Israel. This would make the U.S. one of the most critical aspects for Israel’s air-space defense.

In addition, The U.S. has around 40k to 50k troops spread across at least 19 sites in the Middle East. This includes countries such as Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. These troops/bases support air operations, logistics, intelligence-collection, and rapid-response capabilities, and are explicitly used to deter and counter Iranian threats and affiliated armed groups (including Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis, and Iraq- and Syria-based militias).

The U.S. expanded its military posture in the Middle East from 2025-2026, as they deployed air defense systems, naval assets, and strike aircraft. After withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions, the U.S. combined maximum-pressure tactics with joint Israeli strikes on Iranian military infrastructure, leadership, and nuclear facilities. U.S. strategy also included threatening port blockades around the Strait of Hormuz while pursuing diplomatic "off-ramps" through third-country talks.

Russia:

When it comes to Moscow's, the capital of Russia, reaction, it consists of repeated condemnations of Israel and calls for mediation.

Putin has yet to make any public comments, though the Kremlin, which is a group of buildings in the center of Moscow that serves as the official seat of the government of Russia, released a statement about his separate calls with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. In both cases, he apparently reiterated Russia's condemnation of Israeli strikes.

In January of 2025, Russia and Iran signed a partnership treaty that calls for strengthening defense ties as well as consulting and cooperating on shared security threats. Notably, the document doesn't require either party to come into defence when one is attacked. However, it does include refrainment from aiding the attacker/s.

China:

As for China, in June of 2025, the Chinese Foreign Minister condemned Israel's acts and called them a "reckless violation of Iran's sovereignty" and stated that the ongoing operation will likely have catastrophic consequences. It was also mentioned by him that China opposed the acts of Israel, as they considered these actions a "violation of international law."

It is seen that Chinese officials are concerned about maintaining the steady flow of energy and commerce to and from the Middle East. Notably, Iranian energy export, similar to that of Iraq's, is about 10% of China's overall import, with Saudi Arabia being 14%. The overall stability of commerce to and from the region and the potential further instability that may occur are the concerns Beijing, the capital of China, has.

Thus, Beijing is more likely to seek the prevention of escalation. In addition, it is important to note that Beijing considers Israel's actions as ones backed by the U.S. During a UN meeting,

the Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong called on “the country with significant influence over Israel” to “play a constructive role.” This statement, while uncertain, was considered to be referring to the U.S. by the public opinion.

In terms of Iran and China’s relationship, it is safe to say that it has deepened throughout the past years. During a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors held shortly before the fighting erupted, China joined Russia in voting “no” to a resolution declaring that Iran was in breach of its nuclear obligations. However, the resolution passed anyway.

As can be understood from the provided information, China is more likely to prioritize de-escalation of the situation while condemning the acts of Israel (thus, indirectly the acts of America), and positioning itself as an unbiased party.

Non-state proxies (Hezbollah, Houthis, Iraqi militias, Hamas):

Hezbollah:

Hezbollah is a Lebanese political party and militant group that was founded in 1982 via the support of Iran. While it is based in Lebanon, the party acts as a “state within a state” and is Iran's most capable proxy force with estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles. Hezbollah had led counterstrikes against Israel following Khamenei's assassination, suffered significant losses including leader Hassan Nasrallah and military commander Fuad Shukur, and is now currently led by deputy chief Naim Qassem and Nasrallah's cousin Hashem Safieddine

Houthis:

Also officially known as Ansar Allah, Houthis is a revivalist and Shia Islamist political and military organization that emerged from Yemen in the 1990s. As for the organization's role in this conflict, the Houthis launched attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, targeted Israeli and US vessels with missiles and drones, and used the conflict to demonstrate military capabilities and gain leverage.

Iraqi militias:

Iraqi militias are predominantly Shia paramilitary groups that emerged after the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. As for their role in the conflict, they have conducted drone and rocket strikes on coalition forces, some groups have called for restraint while others advocate for increased resistance, and formations including Kataib Hezbollah and Popular Mobilization Forces attacked US bases.

Hamas:

Hamas is a Palestinian militant and political organization founded in 1987 during the First Intifada. When it comes to their actions during the conflict, Hamas is Iran's primary Palestinian proxy with historical ties dating to the 1990s. Hamas also received significant financial and military support (\$25-50 million annually in 1990s). On October 7, 2023 Hamas's attack on Israel had Iranian backing and training.

5. Timeline of Key Events

1979-2018: Foundation of Hostility

1979: Iranian Islamic Revolution - Ayatollah Khomeini declares "Israel must be wiped off the map," establishing systematic hostility

1985: Iran creates Hezbollah in Lebanon with explicit purpose of attacking Israeli civilians

2015: JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal) signed between Iran and P5+1

2017: Donald Trump elected US president, critical of Iran deal

2018: Trump withdraws US from JCPOA; Israel covertly steals Iranian nuclear archive

2019-2022: Escalation and Nuclear Tensions

2019: Iran enriches uranium beyond JCPOA limits

2020: Iran continues nuclear program expansion despite sanctions

2021: Iran provides precision-guided munitions to Hamas for rocket attacks on Israel

2023: October 7 Catalyst and Multi-Front War

October 7, 2023: Hamas launches largest terror attack in Israeli history (1,200+ murdered, 240+ hostages), with Iranian planning, training, and weapons supply

October 26, 2023: US strikes two Iran-backed facilities in response to proxy attacks

November 2023: Iran activates "Axis of Resistance" - Hezbollah launches daily attacks from Lebanon, Iraqi militias attack from east, Houthis from south

2024: Direct Confrontation Begins

February 2, 2024: US strikes 85 more Iran-affiliated targets in Iraq and Syria

April 13, 2024: Iran launches first direct military attack on Israel - fires over 300 missiles and drones

April 14, 2024: Israel responds with precision strikes on Iranian military facilities

October 1, 2024: Iran launches second massive missile barrage (180+ ballistic missiles) at Israeli cities

October 26, 2024: Israel launches largest direct attack on Iran, targeting air defenses and missile production facilities

November 27, 2024: Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement

December 8, 2024: Bashar al-Assad falls in Syria; Israeli troops enter southern Syria

2025: Diplomatic Attempts and Final Escalation

January 19, 2025: Israel-Hamas temporary ceasefire takes effect

January 20, 2025: Trump returns to US presidency

January 29, 2025: Ahmed al-Sharaa appointed president of Syria

March 18, 2025: Israel breaks Gaza ceasefire, resumes airstrikes

April 12, 2025: US and Iran begin indirect nuclear negotiations in Oman

June 13, 2025: War officially begins: Israeli airstrikes target Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing several high-level security officials; US-Iran negotiations suspended

June 21, 2025: US bombs three Iranian nuclear facilities (Natanz, Isfahan, Fordow)

June 23, 2025: Iran retaliates with missile strike on US airbase in Qatar; Trump announces

ceasefire

February 28, 2026: United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes on Iran, dubbed "Operation Epic Fury"

6. Past Actions

The Iran–Israel conflict, especially its nuclear dimension, has been discussed many times within the United Nations system. The Security Council has taken several steps over the years, mostly focusing on limiting Iran’s nuclear activities and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the region. However, these efforts have had mixed results.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): One of the most important periods of UN action was between 2006 and 2010, when the Security Council adopted a series of resolutions on Iran’s nuclear program. These resolutions called on Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment activities and cooperate fully with international inspectors. They also introduced sanctions targeting Iran’s economy, military-related sectors, and nuclear program. The goal was to pressure Iran into complying with international expectations without using military force. These measures were supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitored Iran’s nuclear activities. The IAEA regularly reported to the Security Council, raising concerns about lack of transparency and unanswered questions regarding Iran’s nuclear intentions. While Iran allowed some level of inspection, there were continuous disagreements over access and cooperation.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA): A major development came in 2015 with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This agreement was reached between Iran and a group of countries including the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. The deal aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting many of the international sanctions. Under this agreement, Iran reduced its stockpile of enriched uranium, limited its enrichment level, and allowed more extensive inspections by the IAEA.

The Security Council supported this agreement through Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA and set a framework for its implementation. For a period of time, this was seen as a successful diplomatic effort, as it slowed down Iran's nuclear progress and increased transparency. However, the situation changed in 2018 when the United States withdrew from the JCPOA and reimposed sanctions on Iran. Following this, Iran gradually reduced its compliance with the agreement, increasing its enrichment levels and limiting some inspection access. This weakened the effectiveness of the deal and created new tensions within the Security Council, as member states disagreed on how to respond. In parallel to these diplomatic efforts, there have been ongoing covert and military actions, particularly attributed to Israel. These include cyber operations, sabotage, and targeted strikes against nuclear-related facilities and personnel. While these actions were not officially authorized by the United Nations, they have had a direct impact on the situation and have influenced discussions within the Security Council.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): The United Nations has also consistently emphasized the importance of non-proliferation through global frameworks such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Iran is a party to this treaty, which allows for peaceful nuclear energy but prohibits the development of nuclear

weapons. The UN has repeatedly called on all states in the region to respect this framework and avoid actions that could increase tensions.

7. Key Terms

Direct Confrontation: The transition from proxy warfare to open military conflict between Iran and Israel.

12-Day War: The June 2025 conflict that marked the first major direct military engagement

Operation Epic Fury: The February 2026 U.S.-Israel coordinated military operation against Iran.

Nuclear Threshold: The point at which Iran's nuclear program could rapidly produce weapons-grade material.

Ballistic Missile Arsenal: Iran's long-range missile capabilities and their strategic implications.

Air Defense Systems: Critical infrastructure that determines vulnerability to aerial attacks.

Strategic Chokepoints: Narrow maritime passages vital for global energy transport.

Axis of Resistance: Iran's network of proxy groups (Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis) across the region.

Cascading Escalation: How conflicts in one theater trigger responses across multiple regions.

Proxy Warfare: Indirect conflict through third-party armed groups.

Horizontal Escalation: Expanding the geographic scope of conflict across borders.

Vertical Escalation: Increasing the intensity and targeting of military operations.

De-escalation Mechanisms: Diplomatic frameworks to reduce tensions.

Crisis Communication: Channels for preventing miscalculation and accidental conflict.

Strait of Hormuz: The critical waterway through which 20% of global oil trade passes.

Energy Infrastructure: Oil facilities, refineries, and transportation networks.

Maritime Security: Protection of shipping lanes and commercial vessels.

Supply Chain Disruption: Interruptions in global energy distribution.

Price Volatility: Fluctuations in energy markets due to geopolitical instability.

Strategic Reserves: National oil reserves used to mitigate supply shocks.

Energy Security: Reliable access to affordable energy resources.

Collective Self-Defense: UN Charter Article 51 and the right to respond to attacks.

Proportionality: The principle that military responses must be commensurate to the threat.

Distinction: The obligation to distinguish between military and civilian targets.

Preemptive Strike: Action taken against an imminent threat before materialization.

Sanctions Regime: Economic measures used to pressure state behavior.

Diplomatic Immunity: Protection granted to diplomatic premises and personnel.

Humanitarian Law: International rules governing armed conflict and protection of civilians.

Nuclear Diplomacy: Negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and constraints.

Mediation: Third-party intervention to facilitate conflict resolution.

Confidence-Building Measures: Steps to reduce mistrust and prevent escalation.

Ceasefire Agreements: Temporary halts in hostilities for diplomatic purposes.

Verification Mechanisms: Systems to monitor compliance with agreements.

Regional Security Architecture: Cooperative frameworks for stability.

Track I/II Diplomacy: Official and unofficial channels for dialogue.

Civilian Protection: Safeguards for non-combatants in conflict zones.

Humanitarian Access: Ability to deliver aid to affected populations.

Displacement: Forced movement of populations due to conflict.

Infrastructure Damage: Destruction of critical civilian facilities.

Healthcare Systems: Medical facilities affected by military operations.

Food Security: Access to adequate nutrition amid supply disruptions.

Water Infrastructure: Desalination plants and water supply systems.

Global Energy Markets: International oil and gas trading systems.

Supply Chain Resilience: Ability to maintain energy flow despite disruptions.

Market Speculation: Financial reactions to geopolitical tensions.

Energy Transition: Shift away from fossil fuels amid supply concerns.

Economic Sanctions: Trade restrictions used as foreign policy tools.

Currency Stability: Financial impacts on regional economies.

Investment Climate: Business environment affected by geopolitical risk.

8. Questions to be Addressed

1. How can UNSC build minimal trust between Iran and Israel after decades of shadow war and proxy conflicts?
2. How should UNSC enforce ceasefires across multiple proxy fronts like Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq?
3. How can UNSC deploy observers to high-risk borders to prevent accidental escalation?
4. How can UNSC guarantee safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz for global oil flows?
5. How should UNSC coordinate with IEA and OPEC for emergency energy supply releases?
6. How can UNSC revive JCPOA-style nuclear restrictions on Iran with credible verification?
7. How should UNSC ensure IAEA access to damaged Iranian nuclear facilities?
8. How can UNSC create a regional contact group with Gulf states, Turkey, and Egypt for de-escalation?
9. How can UNSC balance Israel's self-defense rights with preventing nuclear proliferation?

9. Further Readings

Amr Hamzawy, and Nathan J Brown. 2025. "How Regional Security Dialogues Can Address the Grim Realities in the Middle East." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. April 10, 2025. <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/04/regional-security-middle-east-israel-iran>.

"Iran Implications for Global Energy Security and Transition." 2026. E3G. March 11, 2026. <https://www.e3g.org/publications/iran-implications-on-energy-security-and-transition/>

"NATO PA." 2025. NATO PA. April 16, 2025. <https://www.nato-pa.int/document/2025-irans-threat-regional-and-euro-atlantic-security-gsm-report>.

Tejeda, Gaby. 2025. "Iran-Israel Conflict Demonstrated Vulnerability of Global Energy Supply Chains - the Soufan Center." The Soufan Center. June 27, 2025. <https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2025-june-27/>.

"The Impact of the Iran Conflict on Global Energy Markets." 2026. Atlantic Council. March 10, 2026. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/the-impact-of-the-iran-conflict-on-global-energy-markets/>.

"Client Challenge." 2026. Un.org. 2026. <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16087.doc.htm>.

Davenport, Kelsey. 2023. "UN Security Council Resolutions on Iran | Arms Control Association." Armscontrol.org. 2023. <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/un-security-council-resolutions-iran>.

guillermo. 2026. "Militias and Iraq's Role in a Multifaceted Regional War - Foreign Policy Research Institute." Foreign Policy Research Institute. April 3, 2026. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2026/03/militias-and-iraqs-role-in-regional-conflict/>.

in. 2026. "Emergency Meeting on the Military Escalation in the Middle East." Security Council Report. 2026. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2026/02/emergency-meeting-on-the-military-escalation-in-the-middle-east.php>.

Khalil, Hafsa. 2026. "What We Know about the Joint US-Israel Attack on Iran," February 28, 2026. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2dyz6p3weo>.

Loft, Philip. 2026. "US-Israel Strikes on Iran: February/March 2026." House of Commons Library. March 2, 2026. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10521/>.

"Statement by the Secretary-General on Iran." 2026. Secretary-General. February 28, 2026. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2026-02-28/statement-the-secretary-general-iran>.

Zeidan, Adam. 2024. "Axis of Resistance | Groups, Countries, Map, Leaders, Middle East, Iran, Hamas, Houthi, & Hezbollah." Encyclopedia Britannica. October 25, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Axis-of-Resistance>.

"IAEA Reports | Security Council." 2020. Un.org. 2020. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/iaea-reports>.

"Iran." n.d. The Nuclear Threat Initiative. <https://www.nti.org/countries/iran/>.

"Resolution 2231 (2015) on Iran Nuclear Issue | Security Council." 2015. Un.org. 2015. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/background>.

"What Is the Iran Nuclear Deal? | Council on Foreign Relations." 2017. Cfr.org. April 11, 2017. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/what-iran-nuclear-deal>.

10. Bibliography

RAND Corporation. *The Future of the U.S.-GCC Relationship*. Monograph MG1143-OSD.

Santa Monica, CA: RAND National Defense Research Institute, 2011.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/mg1143osd.7>.

“Model Answer: The Iran–Israel Conflict Poses a Serious Threat to Regional Stability and Global Peace.” *PWOnlyIAS: UPSC Mains Answer Writing Challenge*. March 6, 2026.

<https://pwnonlyias.com/mains-answer-writing/the-iran-israel-conflict-poses-a-serious-threat-to-regional-stability-and-global-peace/>.

“Iran War Expands across Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen.” 2019. *Appliedgeopolitics.com*. 2019.

<https://appliedgeopolitics.com/blog/global-implications-iran-war>.

Abbasi, Arooba. 2025. “Proxy Wars and Regional Instability: Israel-Iran Conflict in the Middle East.” *Assajournal.com* 4 (01): 1418–27. <https://assajournal.com/index.php/36/article/view/635>.

“Analysis - the Iran War: Strategic Implications for Israel, the Gulf States and beyond - ELNET.” 2026. *ELNET*. March 16, 2026. <https://elnetwork.eu/policypaper/analysis-iran-war-israel-gulf-states/>.

AP. 2025. “Timeline of Tensions and Hostilities between Israel and Iran.” *Arab News*.

Arabnews. June 15, 2025. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2604551/middle-east>.

Beehner, Lionel. 2006. “Iraq’s Militia Groups.” *Cfr.org*. Council on Foreign Relations. October 26, 2006. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/iraqs-militia-groups>.

Byman, Daniel, Seth G Jones, and Alexander Palmer. 2024. “Escalating to War between Israel, Hezbollah, and Iran.” *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. October 4, 2024.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/escalating-war-between-israel-hezbollah-and-iran>.

Center for Preventive Action. 2023a. "Confrontation between the United States and Iran." Global Conflict Tracker. Council on Foreign Relations. January 6, 2023. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran>.

———. 2023b. "Confrontation between the United States and Iran." Global Conflict Tracker. Council on Foreign Relations. January 6, 2023. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/confrontation-between-united-states-and-iran>.

De, Abhishek. 2024. "Main Actors in Iran-Israel Conflict That Has Pushed Middle East to Brink." India Today. October 2, 2024. <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/israel-iran-war-middle-east-crisis-hezbollah-houthis-syria-yemen-key-players-2609915-2024-10-02>.

Harter, Fred. 2025. "The History of Now: Israel and Iran." The Observer. June 22, 2025. <https://observer.co.uk/news/international/article/the-history-of-now-israel-and-iran>.

"Home - UNSC." 2024. UNSC. November 6, 2024. <https://www.unsc.uno/>.

<https://apnews.com/author/the-associated-press>. 2025. "A Timeline of Conflict between Israel and Iran." AP News. June 13, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/israel-iran-timeline-tensions-conflict-66764c2843d62757d83e4a486946bcb8>.

Huggard, Kevin, and Mallika Yadwad. 2025a. "The Road to the Israel-Iran War." Brookings. July 23, 2025. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-road-to-the-israel-iran-war/>.

———. 2025b. "The Road to the Israel-Iran War." Brookings. July 23, 2025. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-road-to-the-israel-iran-war/>.

“Iran-Israel Conflict Timeline: When and Who Started the War.” 2025. Israel Fact Check. 2025. <https://www.israelfactcheck.com/iran-israel-conflict-timeline-when-and-who-started-the-war>.

Jaber, Samer. 2026. “Iran Remains an Obstacle to the ‘Greater Israel’ Project.” Al Jazeera. April 14, 2026. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/4/14/iran-remains-an-obstacle-to-the-greater-israel-project>.

“Key Outside Actors in the Iran-Israel Showdown: A Compilation of Washington Institute Assessments.” 2025. The Washington Institute. 2025. <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/key-outside-actors-iran-israel-showdown-compilation-washington-institute>.

Khalil, Hafsa. 2026. “What We Know about the Joint US-Israel Attack on Iran,” February 28, 2026. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2dyz6p3weo>.

Loft, Philip. 2026. “US-Israel Strikes on Iran: February/March 2026.” House of Commons Library. March 2, 2026. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10521/>.

Massaab Al-Aloosy. 2023. “Insurgency, Proxy, and Dependence: How Hezbollah’s Ideology Prevails over Its Interest in Its Relationship with Iran.” *International Journal* 78 (1-2): 24–40. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207020231175679>.

Mehmet Kılıç. 2025. “From Proxy Conflict to Open War: Iran on the Brink?” TRT World Research Centre. June 18, 2025. <https://researchcentre.trtworld.com/publications/analysis/from-proxy-conflict-to-open-war-iran-on-the-brink/>.

Nadav Eyal. 2026a. “The Atlantic.” The Atlantic. theatlantic. April 8, 2026. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/2026/04/iran-palestine-israel-war/686717/>.

———. 2026b. “The Atlantic.” The Atlantic. theatlantic. April 8, 2026. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/2026/04/iran-palestine-israel-war/686717/>.

“Q&a | Twelve Days That Shook the Region: Inside the Iran-Israel War.” 2025. ACLED. July 25, 2025. <https://acleddata.com/qa/qa-twelve-days-shook-region-inside-iran-israel-war>.

Sharma, Dr Anu. 2024. “The Israel-Iran Proxy War: Escalation through Hamas and Its Regional Fallout.” The Week. November 26, 2024. <https://www.theweek.in/news/middle-east/2024/11/26/the-israel-iran-proxy-war-escalation-through-hamas-and-its-regional-fallout.html>.

“The Israel-Iran Conflict: Global and Regional Ramifications.” 2025. Steptoe. 2025. <https://www.steptoec.com/en/news-publications/stepwise-risk-outlook/the-israel-iran-conflict-global-and-regional-ramifications.html>.

“Understanding the War between Israel and Iran: Q&a with Amichai Magen And.” 2025. Stanford.edu. June 18, 2025. <https://fsi.stanford.edu/news/understanding-war-between-israel-and-iran-qa-amichai-magen-and-abbas-milani>.

United Nations. 2025. “Security Council.” Main.un.org. 2025. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en>.

“Victory and Defeat Scenarios for Iran’s Proxies in Lebanon and Iraq.” 2026. Aawsat.com. March 29, 2026. <https://english.aawsat.com/features/5256453-victory-and-defeat-scenarios-iran%E2%80%99s-proxies-lebanon-and-iraq>.

Zeidan, Adam. 2024. “Axis of Resistance | Groups, Countries, Map, Leaders, Middle East, Iran, Hamas, Houthi, & Hezbollah.” Encyclopedia Britannica. October 25, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Axis-of-Resistance>.

———. 2025. “12-Day War (June 2025) | Strike, Ceasefire, Attack, Nuclear Program, Ayatollah Khamenei, American Bases, Map, & United States.” Encyclopedia Britannica. June 13, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/event/12-Day-War>.

“IAEA Reports | Security Council.” 2020. Un.org. 2020. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/iaea-reports>.

“Iran.” n.d. The Nuclear Threat Initiative. <https://www.nti.org/countries/iran/>.

“Resolution 2231 (2015) on Iran Nuclear Issue | Security Council.” 2015. Un.org. 2015. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/background>.

“What Is the Iran Nuclear Deal? | Council on Foreign Relations.” 2017. Cfr.org. April 11, 2017. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/what-iran-nuclear-deal>.