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Subject: Fw: Israel-Iran Conflict: Sitrep v10 - 23 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 7:41:54 AM
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From: s22@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 5:44 am
To: s22@finance.gov.au>
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ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT: DFAT (CRISIS CENTRE) SITREP V10 AS AT 0600 23 JUNE 2025

KEY UPDATES

1. Military strikes by Iran and Israel continued for an eleventh consecutive day (23 June).
2. On 22 June [AEST] the US conducted strikes on Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan nuclear facilities.
3. Iran's IRGC said it would respond to the US's attack – and that US bases in the region were a 'point of vulnerability'.
4. Iranian FM Araghchi said he would meet with Russian President Putin on 23 June for 'serious consultations'.
5. US Defense Secretary Hegseth said the US was in contact with Iran through multiple channels to still give them 'every opportunity to come to the table'.

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SITUATION UPDATE

- Iran and Israel's military strikes continued for a 11th consecutive day (23 June).
- On 22 June, Iran launched 27 missiles, in two waves, into Israel ([Times of Israel](#)).
 - In the first strike since the US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran said they targeted multiple sites in Israel, including an attempt to target Ben Gurion

Airport.

- Missiles hit residential areas of Tel Aviv, Ness Ziona and Haifa. At least 86 people were injured ([Times of Israel](#), TA61581L).

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- The IAEA said that, as of now, there have been no reports of increased off-site radiation levels following the earlier US strikes on Fordow, Esfahan and Natanz. Director General Rafael Grossi is convening an emergency meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on Monday (local time).
 - Iran's Red Crescent said 11 people sustained minor injuries during the US strikes and no radiation was detected at the nuclear sites targeted by the US ([BBC](#)).
- The UN Security Council convened an emergency meeting on 22 June at Iran's request.
- Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said the US "committed a grave violation of the UN Charter, international law and the NPT [non-proliferation treaty] by attacking Iran's peaceful nuclear installations" and added "Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, interest and people" ([Reuters](#)).
- US Vice President JD Vance said the US was "not at war" with Iran and was "not interested in protracted conflicts in the Middle East" ([CNN](#)).
- US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the US strikes had "devastated" Iran's nuclear program and urged Iran's leaders to "seek peace" to avoid further attacks ([France 24](#)).
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there were no planned military operations "right now" against Iran and warned Iran against retaliating, saying such an action would be "the worst mistake they've ever made" ([Times of Israel](#)).

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- A government spokesperson acknowledged the US strikes and reiterated that Iran's nuclear and ballistic missiles program is a threat to international peace and security,

and Australia continues to call for de-escalation and diplomacy.

- Hours before news of the US strike broke, Deputy PM Marles said Australia was concerned about the prospect of the conflict escalating but recognised the threat posed by Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program.

ISRAEL RESPONSE

- Prime Minister Netanyahu congratulated the United States and said there had been "full coordination" between US and Israeli governments and militaries on the US's strikes. Netanyahu said he and President Trump often said 'peace through strength: first comes strength, then comes peace'.

IRAN RESPONSE

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) released a statement threatening retaliation against the US and Israel with 'options beyond the[ir] understanding' and said US bases in the Middle East were a 'point of vulnerability'. (Reuters)
- Foreign Minister Araghchi posted that 'Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, interest and people' and condemned the US attack as a 'grave violation' of international law which 'will have everlasting consequences'. Araghchi said he would meet with President Putin in Russia on 23 June for 'serious consultations'. (Aljazeera)
- Iran's Foreign Ministry said the US had begun a 'dangerous war against Iran'. (CNN)
- Iranian media reported that local officials disputed President Trump's claim that Fordow had been 'obliterated', saying the facilities was not seriously damaged.

UNITED STATES RESPONSE

- Vice-President Vance told (US) ABC: 'we're not at war with Iran – we're at war with Iran's nuclear program'.
- Defense Secretary Hegseth said the US strikes were 'intentionally limited' and the US was delivering 'both public and private messages' to Iran to give them 'every opportunity to come to the table' – but cautioned that US military capabilities were 'nearly unlimited'.
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Caine said US forces remained 'on high alert, and are fully postured to respond to any Iranian retaliation or proxy attacks'. Caine said it was 'way too early' to comment on what remained of the nuclear facilities the US had struck.
- President Trump described the US strikes as a 'spectacular military success' and said Iran's three key nuclear facilities had been 'obliterated'. He warned that Iran 'must now make peace' or face '[far greater] tragedy' – noting 'there [were] many targets left', most of which 'could be taken out in a matter of minutes'.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

- UK Prime Minister Starmer posted on X that 'Iran can never be allowed to develop a

nuclear weapon and the US has taken action to alleviate that threat'. He said 'stability in the region is a priority' and called on Iran 'to return to the negotiating table'.

- French Foreign Minister Barrot posted that France was not involved in the US strikes or their planning and urged restraint and a negotiated solution.
- EU Commission President von der Leyen said 'Iran must never acquire the bomb' but that, 'with tensions in the Middle East at a new peak, stability must be the priority' and 'respect for international law is critical'. (X)
- Russia's Foreign Ministry described the US strikes as an 'irresponsible decision' that 'flagrantly violates international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council'.
- A Chinese MFA spokesperson posted that China 'strongly condemns' the US strikes, which they said 'seriously violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law and have exacerbated [regional] tensions.'
- Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba urged de-escalation and said 'Iran's nuclear weapons development must be stopped' ([The Australian](#)). Ishiba declined to comment directly on whether Japan supported the US strikes.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was 'gravely alarmed' by the US strikes on Iran, which he said were a 'dangerous escalation...and a direct threat to international peace and security'. (CNN)
- Houthi officials said 'destroying a nuclear facility...is not the end of the war, but...the beginning' and the US 'must bear the consequences' – threatening to resume attacks on US vessels and warships in the Red Sea (Al Jazeera).

SECURITY UPDATES

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- The US Department of Homeland Security issued a bulletin warning of a “heightened threat environment” in the US, citing the possibility of “low-level cyber attacks” and continued potential of retaliatory violence following US strikes against Iran (CNN).

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