

Israel strikes back at military targets in Iran

Jerusalem informed Washington of its attack ahead of time, officials confirmed • Several strong explosions were heard in Tehran and other areas, according to reports • Cabinet authorized the attack Friday night

Jonathan Lis, Jack Khoury, Ben Samuels, Yaniv Kubovich, Noa Spigel, Haaretz and Reuters

The Israeli army attacked a series of military targets across Iran overnight into Saturday, in response to Iran's missile attack on Israel earlier this month.

Media in Iran reported explosions in Tehran and the nearby city of Karaj, and according to The New York Times, there were also reports of explosions in Isfahan and Mashhad. IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari said that missile production facilities, surface-to-air missile systems, and additional Iranian aerial capabilities – with the potential to limit Israel's sorties over Iran – were targeted.

The Iranian military claimed minimal damage was caused to several sites and that its air defense systems managed to thwart the Israeli attack. A senior U.S. official stated, "This should be the end of direct attacks between Israel and Iran."

Over 100 aircraft, including fighter jets and drones, took part in the two-phase attack, Israeli sources told The New York Times.

The first phase involved Israeli fighter jets targeting air defense systems in Syria and Iraq to prevent Tehran's allies from intercepting the aircraft. The jets then proceeded to Iran – more than 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) from Israel – and attacked Iran's air defense



Smoke as seen in Tehran during Israel's attack on Iran on Saturday.

Published under Section 27A of the Copyright Law

Amos Harel

A show of long-range strike capability

The Israeli airstrike in Iran on Friday night had two aims: demonstrating capabilities and cutting off capabilities. Israel wanted to react, and in fact to settle an account, regarding the ballistic missile attack on its territory on October 1, in the hope that Iran would not choose to continue the tit-for-tat exchange of blows at this time. At the same time, Israel is preparing for a confrontation.

The air force demon-

strated its long-range attack capability, which in principle could also threaten the Iranian regime's most valuable asset, its nuclear program. And it also significantly targeted Iran's aerial defense capability, as preparation for the next attack, if needed.

Iran did not respond immediately to the Israeli attack with binding statements or with actions. Since it is a

See STRIKE, Page 4

Yossi Melman

Israel can afford to show restraint

Official spokesmen and media reports in Iran claimed that its forces managed to repel the Israeli attack, which they say caused only minor damage in several places. These messages, which are characteristic of a dictatorial, corrupt regime that twists the truth, can be used by Tehran as a ladder to step down from further escalation. But it is doubtful whether in the angry and toxic atmosphere,

fueled by national pride, desire for revenge, games of honor and misconceptions about mutual deterrence, Iran will bring an end to the exchange of blows.

The Israeli attack early Saturday morning came in three waves that lasted about three hours, and involved the participation of dozens of F-35, F-16 and F-15 warplanes along with

See AFFORD, Page 4

Eight soldiers killed in Lebanon and Gaza; two civilians killed in north

Yaniv Kubovich, Jonathan Lis, Jack Khoury, Bar Peleg, Adi Hashmonai and Eden Solomon

Five IDF reservists were killed in combat in Lebanon on Thursday evening, the army announced on Friday.

The soldiers were identified as Major (res.) Dan Maori, 43, from Beit Yitzhak-Sha'ar Hefer; Capt.

(res.) Alon Safrai, 28, from Jerusalem; Warrant Officer (res.) Omri Lotan, 47, from Bat Hefer; Warrant Officer (res.) Guy Idan, 51, from Kibbutz Shomrat; and Master Sgt. (res.) Tom Segal, 28, from Ein Ha'besor.

According to the IDF, the five soldiers, all from the 89th Battalion, were most likely killed by a mortar shell fired at them. Nine-

teen additional soldiers were wounded in the incident, including four who are hospitalized in serious condition.

The incident occurred late on Thursday as the soldiers were making their way toward a makeshift base in Lebanon used by the IDF. As they arrived, they were hit by a projectile – most likely a mortar. IDF helicopters evacuated the

wounded soldiers to various hospitals in Israel.

The army added that another soldier was seriously wounded in a separate incident that took place on Friday.

Warrant Officer (res.) Guy Idan is survived by his wife, Sharona, and two daughters, Libby and Avishag. Idan was the son of Yigal and Rachel, and the

cousin of Tsachi Idan, who was kidnapped from his home in Nahal Oz on October 7 and has been held in Gaza ever since.

Master Sgt. (res.) Tom Segal is survived by his parents, Smadar and Micha, and his brothers, Lior and Aviv.

Captain (res.) Alon Safrai was in his third year of medical school at Haifa's Technion – Israel Institute

of Technology.

Twenty-seven Israeli soldiers have been killed since the start of ground operations in Lebanon roughly three weeks ago. Since October 7 of last year, 762 names of fallen soldiers have been released, with over 5,000 soldiers wounded, including 758 seriously.

In the northern Gaza Strip on Friday, an officer

and two combat soldiers of the Armored Corps 196th Battalion were killed in combat, the IDF announced.

The three were identified as Captain Barak Israel Sagan, 22, from Petah Tikva, Sergeant Ido Ben Zvi, 21, from Shomrat and Sergeant Hillel Ovadia, 22, from Jerusalem.

The three were killed in Jabalya when their tank

was struck by an explosive device.

In the northern Israeli town of Majdal Krum, two people were killed and seven were wounded in a rocket barrage from Lebanon. Two of the wounded are in critical condition, emergency services report. The two victims were identified as

See SOLDIERS, Page 2

U.S. warns Iran against retaliating against Israel Amir Tibon Page 2 • Israel set to pass law targeting UNRWA News Page 3

'Singled out by Ben-Gvir'

Police officer in charge of PM's corruption cases to quit force

Josh Breiner

The Israeli police officer in charge of criminal investigations against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in two corruption cases has announced his resignation after National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir asked to assign him to a different role.

Ben-Gvir asked for Brig. Gen. Yoav Telem to be made the head of the police's task force to fight crime in the Arab community – a move that sources say was designed to make him a scapegoat for law enforcement's failure to address the problem. Violent crime in the Arab community has surged dramatically since Ben-Gvir assumed his cabinet post nearly two years ago.

Telem was in charge of investigations into two cases involving Netanyahu: the so-called submarine affair, centering on alleged bribery surrounding the purchase of naval vessels from the German company ThyssenKrupp, and the so-called Case 4000, in which Netanyahu allegedly offered favors in re-

turn for positive media coverage. He is set to leave the police force in a few months.

Police sources say it is unclear what powers are given to the role into which Telem was to be reassigned, both within the police and in working with cabinet ministries.

Telem, currently deputy head of the police's Investigations and Intelligence Branch, was a top candidate for leading that division or for heading Lahav 433, the unit that investigates major crimes and corruption. He has led several investigations into alleged corruption in the public sector.

Telem was widely seen as a thorn in Netanyahu's side over his involvement in the cases against him, according to a high-ranking police source. He gave court testimony in the two cases while serving as a senior officer in Lahav 433.

Last month, Ben-Gvir and Police Commissioner Daniel Levy – who was sworn in last August – demoted the officer in charge of combating crime in the Arab community from major general to brigadier general, and appointed Telem

to the post.

Police sources see Telem's reassignment as an attempt to tarnish his record, with the job's parameters being unclear and the chances of success seen as minimal. "Telem, who everyone knows should be a police major general, has been singled out by Ben-Gvir and the commissioner," says one source. "They tried to dump him into a position without any authority so they could blame him for their failures later."

Telem didn't attend the ceremony marking the appointment at the National Police Academy about a month ago, although Ben-Gvir announced his name and appointment.

"Wise, determined Yoav Telem," Ben-Gvir said, "we are giving you one of the most challenging positions in the police and pinning our hopes on you. We told ourselves that for this job, we had to place one of the most gifted [officers] and one who could resolutely and firmly, wisely and intelligently, succeed in it."

See OFFICER, Page 3

HAARETZ
Online now

Latest Trump election ad
Holocaust survivor slams Harris for calling him fascist

Daylight saving time ended last night. At 2 A.M. the clocks moved back one hour to 1 A.M.

02:00

↓

01:00



haaretz.com

When does the price of Israel's 'total victory' become too high?

David Rosenberg

A report last week on the Ynet news site cited an army source who said the 10-second bombing run that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last month cost 25 million shekels (\$6.6 million), and that a second one that a few days later killed Hashem Safieddine, his likely successor, cost another 20 million.

From a purely economic point of view, the costs Nasrallah imposed on Israel – the lives lost, the destruction, the lost economic output and mental anguish – cannot be earned back by killing him. If there is any payback on the 25 million shekels the air force spent eliminating him, it will come if it hastens an end to the war and helps to bring Israel years of peace, stability and security in the future.

The reality, of course, is that no one looks at war from a purely economic perspective. It is safe to assume that nearly all Israelis would consider the money budgeted for the Hezbollah leader's demise well spent whatever the return on the investment turns out to be. Nasrallah



A forest fire near Hatzor as a result of a rocket that was fired from Lebanon.

Gil Elyahu

was a sworn enemy, and in war, the desire for revenge or summary justice trumps any kind of financial calculation.

And, there we have in a nutshell the dilemma Israel faces as the war that began on October 7, 2023 passes the one-year mark. There is a very big economic dimension to armed conflict (and in the case of the current war,

the longest and most expensive Israel has ever fought, an enormous one. But it gets lost in the day-to-day discussion of battlefield gains and losses and the powerful psychological elements involved.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's mantra of "total victory" and his desire to frame the fight as a "war of revival" play to the desire

for revenge and triumph. The trauma of October 7 makes his job easy. As much as this may be a war to restore Israel's deterrence, it is at least as much about revenge and justice. But it shouldn't be just that.

When Israel can declare victory and end the fighting

See HIGH, Page 2