



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 307**

# [IDF: Iran Launched More than 200 Drones, Cruise Missiles at Israel; 'Majority' Intercepted \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #war, #missiles

Apr 13, 2024

AMNUN, Galilee, Israel — The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said Sunday morning local time that it had intercepted the “majority” of the “dozens” of drones and cruise missiles that Iran had launched against Israel, though a few hit targets, including an IDF base.

*Surreal footage of the Iranian attack over Jerusalem’s Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif* [pic.twitter.com/NuSvF25HLX](https://pic.twitter.com/NuSvF25HLX)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [April 13, 2024](#)

In a statement, the IDF said:

*Dozens of surface-to-surface missile launches from Iran were identified approaching Israeli territory. The IDF Aerial Defense Array successfully intercepted the majority of the launches using the Arrow Aerial Defense System, together with Israel’s strategic allies, before the launches crossed into Israeli territory. A small number of hits were identified, including at an IDF base in southern Israel, where minor damage was caused to infrastructure.*

*Many dozens of hostile aircraft, as well as dozens of cruise missiles, were identified approaching Israeli territory from Iran and intercepted over the past few hours. Dozens of IAF fighter jets are currently operating to intercept all aerial threats approaching Israeli territory.*

*The IDF is deployed on all fronts, prepared, and continuing to defend Israeli territory.*

In tota, IDF Spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said that Iran had launched over 200 hostile aircraft.

*Footage purportedly shows Iranian missiles impacting in the Negev area of southern Israel earlier.* [pic.twitter.com/WtE4rjtBms](https://pic.twitter.com/WtE4rjtBms)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [April 13, 2024](#)

Israelis were told to stay near the “safe rooms” — rooms with reinforced walls and doors — in their homes overnight. The order from Home Front Command was lifted before dawn Sunday morning, a sign that Israel believes the Iranian attack to be over. Booms continued to be heard over northern Israel.

The country was filled overnight with the sound of air raid sirens, and aircraft scrambling overhead, as well as the sound of explosions, as missile defense systems hit their targets. One injury was reported to a Bedouin Arab child in the Negev desert, hit by [shrapnel](#).

Residents of the interior portions of Israel — including Jerusalem — heard air raid sirens and saw missile defense systems flashing overhead.

*Another video from [#Jerusalem](#) shows extent of the first wave of ballistic missile strike of the [#IRGC](#) Aerospace Force at [#Israel](#). You can see how well the Arrow-2/3 anti-ballistic missile systems took care of the first wave and shot-down most of the [#Iranian](#) ballistic missiles. [pic.twitter.com/yft4ZEhbB4](https://pic.twitter.com/yft4ZEhbB4)*

— Babak Taghvaei – The Crisis Watch (@BabakTaghvaei) [April 14, 2024](#)

It is unclear how Israel will respond. Israel had said last week that it would attack Iran directly if an attack against Israel originated from Iranian soil, as Saturday night’s attack did.

Israel could launch a full attack against Iran’s nuclear weapons program, as well as institutions of the Iranian regime, and Iranian proxies such as Hezbollah, which threatens Israel’s northern communities.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by telephone to U.S. President Joe Biden. Both governments convened their senior officials to discuss the Iranian attack.

# [US military shoots down 'dozens' of Iran drones headed to Israel, as Jewish state air defense system excels | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #war, #missiles

Apr 13, 2024

[Israelis breathed easier](#) in the early hours of Sunday, after an unprecedented air attack from Iranian drones and missiles largely fizzled in the face of the Jewish state's powerful air defenses with assistance from the U.S. military and other allies.

A senior U.S. official told Fox News that the U.S. military has shot down "at least dozens" of Iranian drones en route to Israel early Sunday local time, adding [that U.S. military engagement is ongoing](#).

"U.S. forces in the region continue to shoot down Iranian-launched drones targeting Israel. Our forces remain postured to provide additional defensive support and to protect U.S. forces operating in the region," a U.S. military official told Fox News.

Israel's layered and advanced air defense systems intercepted 99% of the missiles fired by Iran, a senior Israeli official said. "The [Israeli] response will be unprecedented," he said.

## **[ADVANCED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS PROTECT ISRAEL FROM DRONES, MISSILES](#)**

Officials added that the U.S. military assets in the region will shoot down any missiles or drones that are fired and may threaten the U.S. or its allies.

"The U.S. will not strike, but it will defend its allies. If things are in the air we will shoot them down," a senior U.S. military official said.

## **[IRAN CLAIMS TO FOLLOW DRONE LAUNCH AT ISRAEL WITH BALLISTIC MISSILE BARRAGE](#)**

Fox News also confirmed the U.S. closely coordinated with Jordan and Egypt, as Jordan played a key part in downing projectiles fired at Israel.

Officials say that the use of airspace will also be something to watch and that they monitor.

Iran said earlier Sunday that its attack "can be deemed concluded" but warned it would respond decisively to any nation that lets Israel [use its airspace to attack Iran](#).

# [Iran seeks Russian support after drone attack against Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #russia, #israel,

Apr 15, 2024

After its drone attack against Israel, Iran seeks to continue building its partnership with Russia, which has slammed the UN Security Council's emergency meeting after the attack.

Iran is hoping for Russian support in the wake of its [massive attack on Israel](#). The Iranian Foreign Ministry praised Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday and noted a phone call between Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart, in which Russia said it would defend Iran at the UN Security Council.

According to pro-Iran Al-Mayadeen media, Tehran views Russia's comments positively. The Russians, according to the report, said the Iranian attack was coupled with restraint, though this sentiment is questionable, as the attack included 350 missiles and drones.

However, both Russia and Iran are allies of the Syrian regime. Iran claimed its attack was in response to an airstrike in Damascus which Tehran has blamed on Israel. "Russia did not doubt that Iran would respond to the Israeli attack on its consulate in Damascus," the report noted.

## Top Articles

Now, Iran has threatened more attacks, claiming "Iran's response will be stronger and more severe if the Zionist entity carries out new action against it," a response that is designed to create a new deterrence against Israel to try to prevent more Israeli actions.

Iran wants to rewrite the region's rules and equation and make it so that Iran can attack Israel directly in the future, and not suffer any kind of direct response.

Iran says openly that its attack with 350 drones and missiles was "limited and aimed at deterrence." In the past, Israel used to try to deter Iran; now it is Iran saying it is deterring Israel, and it wants Moscow's support in this deterrence.

Iran backs Hamas, and Russia has not condemned the [October 7 attack](#), illustrating how Iran is seeking to bring Russia closer to Tehran's regional views.

Like Russia, Iran tries to wrap its military attacks in legal terms, claiming that its

“response to the Zionist entity was a legal step that falls under the Charter of the United Nations and within the frameworks of international law.” Russia also often uses international law and legal claims to mask its operations, including the invasion of Ukraine. As such,

Iran and Russia are increasingly working in concert on the global stage.

“Iran does not want war, but if it is exposed to an attack, its response will be decisive,” another official of Iran’s regime said, according to the report.

#### [Moscow reportedly concerned about Mideast situation](#)

According to Russia’s state TASS media, Moscow is concerned about the situation in the Middle East, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “We call on all countries in the region to exercise restraint. Further escalation is in no one’s interests. Therefore, of course, we are in favor of seeing all disagreements settled only politically and diplomatically,” the Kremlin spokesman said. TASS reported Iranian claims that its missiles and drones targeted “military facilities.”

Russia also slammed the [UN Security Council](#)’s emergency meeting on Iran’s attack. Russian Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said, “You know very well that an attack on a diplomatic mission is a casus belli under international law. And if Western missions were attacked, you would not hesitate to retaliate and prove your case in this room. Because for you, everything that concerns Western missions and Western citizens is sacred and must be protected,” according to a report at TASS. “Today, the Security Council is witnessing such a parade of Western hypocrisy and double standards that it is even somewhat uncomfortable to watch,” the diplomat said.

Moscow’s comments are important because it shows how Russia is seeking to shield Iran from criticism. Russia sees the current tensions in the Middle East as part of its wider struggle against the West. It has hoped to use the Hamas massacre on October 7, and now the recent Iranian attack, to distract from its war in Ukraine and also to leverage these issues to Moscow’s benefit.

# [Biden said to tell Netanyahu US won't support Israeli response to Iran attack - JNS.org](#)

#bibleprophecy, #america, #israel, #iran, #support

Apr 14, 2024

The U.S. president will convene G7 leaders to coordinate a "united diplomatic response" to the Iranian assault.

U.S. President Joe Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a phone call on Saturday that Washington will not support an Israeli retaliatory attack for Iran's drone and missile assault on the Jewish state, *Axios* reported, citing a senior White House official.

[Iran](#) fired more than 300 missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles from its territory toward Israel on Saturday night, in what Tehran says was retaliation for the April 1 killing of several [IRGC officers](#) in Syria by Israel.

The [United States](#) and other countries helped Israel shoot down the projectiles, which amounted to a 99% success rate, according to the IDF. American military forces intercepted over 100 airborne threats.

"You got a win. Take the win," Biden [told](#) Netanyahu, according to the official, amid fears of a regional war should Jerusalem respond.

Netanyahu reportedly said he understood when Biden told him that the United States will not participate in offensive military operations against Tehran.

In a [White House statement](#), Biden condemned the Iranian assault, which marked the first direct attack on Israel from Iranian territory.

"At my direction, to support the defense of Israel, the U.S. military moved aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to the region over the course of the past week. Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles," said Biden.

"I've just spoken with Prime Minister Netanyahu to reaffirm America's ironclad commitment to the security of Israel. I told him that Israel demonstrated a remarkable capacity to defend against and defeat even unprecedented attacks—sending a clear message to its foes that they cannot effectively threaten the security of Israel.

"Tomorrow, I will convene my fellow G7 leaders to coordinate a united diplomatic



response to Iran's brazen attack. My team will engage with their counterparts across the region. And we will stay in close touch with Israel's leaders. And while we have not seen attacks on our forces or facilities today, we will remain vigilant to all threats and will not hesitate to take all necessary action to protect our people."

Iran is threatening a larger attack if Israel responds militarily, while also warning the United States against further involvement.

"We used an attack with ballistic and cruise missiles. The operation was designed to attack the air base from which the Israeli planes that attacked the consulate [in Damascus] were launched. There were direct hits in the attack. We only targeted military bases," said Mohammad Bakri, chief of staff of the Iranian Army.

"We sent a message to the U.S. that if it cooperates with Israel in the next steps, its bases will not be safe," he added.

Iran's mission to the United Nations said that the attack was in response to the targeting of the consulate in Damascus, even though Israel has not taken responsibility for the attack and reports suggest that the building hit was a local headquarters of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

"Should the Israeli regime make another mistake, Iran's response will be considerably more severe. It is a conflict between Iran and the rogue Israeli regime, from which the U.S. MUST STAY AWAY!" Iran warned.

# [Report: US Signaled to Iran Attack on Israel OK 'Within Certain Limits' | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #america, #israel, #iran

Apr 15, 2024

Iran informed Turkey in advance of its planned operation against Israel, a Turkish diplomatic source told Reuters on Sunday, adding that the Biden administration had conveyed to Tehran via Ankara that any action it took had to be "within certain limits."

Turkey, which has denounced Israel for its campaign on Gaza, said earlier on Sunday that it did not want a further escalation of tensions in the region.

The Turkish source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan had spoken to both his U.S. and Iranian counterparts in the past week to discuss the planned Iranian operation, adding Ankara had been made aware of possible developments.

Earlier this week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Fidan to make clear that escalation in the Middle East was not in anyone's interest.

"Iran informed us in advance of what would happen. Possible developments also came up during the meeting with Blinken, and they [the U.S.] conveyed to Iran through us that this reaction must be within certain limits," the source said.

"In response, Iran said the reaction would be a response to Israel's attack on its embassy in Damascus and that it would not go beyond this."

Iran, which neighbors Turkey, had vowed retaliation for what it called an Israeli strike on its Damascus consulate on April 1 that killed seven officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Turkey's foreign ministry later confirmed the contacts in a statement, saying Ankara had called for restraint and warned of a regional war if tensions escalated further.

It said Ankara would continue efforts to prevent further conflict and escalation in the region.

A Turkish security source said CIA chief William Burns had spoken to Ibrahim Kalin, head of Turkey's MIT intelligence agency, over the Eid al-Fitr holidays and asked him to act as a "mediator" in the Israel-Iran tensions.

The two discussed cease-fire efforts in Gaza as well, the source said, without elaborating.

# [Anti-Israel agitators block Golden Gate Bridge traffic | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #protesters, #america

Apr 15, 2024

Traffic on both lanes of [California's Golden Gate Bridge](#) has been shut down Monday, the California Highway Patrol tells Fox News Digital, as images emerging from the scene show anti-Israel protesters holding banners with the messages "Stop the world for Gaza" and "End the siege on Gaza now!"

A similar demonstration has also blocked traffic on Interstate-880 in Oakland.

"Golden Gate Bridge is closed in both directions for an undetermined amount of time," the [San Francisco](#) Department of Emergency Management said in a statement, adding that a "civic demonstration" is ongoing.

In the Oakland protest, seven demonstrators are attached to concrete barrels that have been placed in the middle of the roadway, according to KRON.

## **[ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTER SOBS DURING ARRAIGNMENT AFTER 'MURDER YOU' REMARK TO CALIFORNIA MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL](#)**

A flag attached to a fence there says "A-15 economic blockade for a [Free Palestine](#)."

The A15 Action group says on its website, "There is a sense in the streets in this recent and unprecedented movement for Palestine that escalation has become necessary: there is a need to shift from symbolic actions to those that cause pain to the economy."

## **[ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTERS SHUT DOWN SENATE CAFETERIA; AROUND 50 ARRESTED](#)**

"The global economy is complicit in genocide," it adds. "Join participating cities in blocking the arteries of capitalism and jamming the wheels of production."

Real-time traffic data from Google Maps shows extensive delays building up in the Bay Area as a result of the protests.

Another protest reportedly linked to the group unfolded in Philadelphia on Monday, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

# [Anti-Semitism Report: Nearly 75% of Universities Received a 'C' or Worse \(westernjournal.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #universities, #america

Apr 16, 2024

The Anti-Defamation League released a [jarring report](#) on Thursday regarding the reign of anti-Semitism on college campuses.

The “[Campus Antisemitism Report Card](#)” graded anti-Semitic incidents, Jewish life, university policies and procedures and how well college administrations handle anti-Semitism on campus.

Needless to say, the results reveal just how poorly the majority of colleges are handling anti-Semitism, leaving Jewish students to feel unsafe.

If these kids are scared for their lives in these learning environments, they are undoubtedly justified. Among the 85 universities included in the study, 66 received a “C” or worse in the management of anti-Semitism on campus.

Many of the 37 colleges that scored a “D” or less were Ivy League schools — the same schools that receive billions in endowments from Jewish individuals and Jewish-led corporations. These schools will take their money but not protect their real interests, including their children, so to speak. It’s disgusting.

For those not familiar with the ADL, the organization was founded in 1913 with a mission “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all,” according to the ADL [website](#).

[Anti-Semitism](#) has spanned as far back as the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, when Pontius Pilot in Judea ordered the Romans to kill our Lord and Savior, only for it to be misguidedly blamed on the Jews.

Ever since then, they’ve been running for their lives even today within the walls of the very bastions of education that expand intellect but not true intelligence or factual awareness.

This is what happens when opinion-based history is taught to those who end up taking over our education system, both public and private. It’s like watching the factual history noted above on repeat. The lies killed one Jew and will endeavor to take them all if left unchecked.

If you were Jewish, would you feel safe on any college campus today?

The liberal left leadership running higher education and much of the rest of **influential society** like the establishment media has seemingly become handmaidens to the devil, and it isn't just truth being lost in the current-day handiwork but safety for Jewish students and families.

Israel's response to the Hamas terrorist attack on Oct. 7 has become the newest fire igniting terrorism not only in Israel but also in the United States as college campuses struggle with divided beliefs over who is responsible and what should be done.

The ADL's report card serves as a valuable check as well as a gauge on the impact of propaganda and ultimately belief on college campuses in relation to the Jewish existence and reality. And given how poorly many universities scored, what the results seem to be saying is that propaganda is winning and free thinking is not a part of the curriculum these predominantly liberal-run institutions foster.

I have to believe that it is the loss of religion in society that helps to bring this evil along. This is because our youth today have no understanding or connection with Jesus' teachings or history. And without a connection to either, it leaves them vulnerable. In their lack of standing for the most important things, they've fallen for the wrong things.

Without learning from history, society will continue to turn on the Jews. That story won't end. It certainly won't end on the watch of the falsely tolerant left.

So how did the report break out?

Two schools — Brandeis University in Massachusetts and Elon University in North Carolina — received a grade of “A” or “Ahead of the Pack.”

Seventeen received a “B” grade (“Better Than Most”), 29 a “C” (“Corrections Needed”), 24 a “D” (“Deficient Approach”) and 13 an “F” (“Failing”).

The “Failing” group included Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

*Interested in learning more about the criteria used to assess the colleges and universities in our Campus Antisemitism Report Card? Check out our criteria guide here: <https://t.co/GXdhmcBvM9> [pic.twitter.com/6RTbWWuvm](https://pic.twitter.com/6RTbWWuvm)*

— ADL (@ADL) April 12, 2024

“Every campus should get an A — that's not grade inflation, that's the minimum that every group on every campus expects,” ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement.

“Like all students, Jewish students deserve to feel safe and supported on campus,” he said. “They deserve a learning environment free from antisemitism and hate. But that hasn’t been the experience with antisemitism running rampant on campus since even before October 7.

“At a time when antisemitic incidents on campus are at historic levels, administrators need to adopt new policies to address this scourge and have the willingness to enforce existing codes of conduct to ensure all students are safe.”

And yet our nation is immersed in unending coverage of the left’s witch hunt against former President Donald Trump while anti-Semitic incidents surged 140 percent in 2023, according to the ADL.

 *We’re sounding the alarm: Our latest Annual Audit of #Antisemitic Incidents reveals a staggering 8,873 incidents in 2023 – a 140% surge from 2022. Some key takeaways*  : <https://t.co/MzEJkWG5eh> [pic.twitter.com/aqP3HhKOCK](https://pic.twitter.com/aqP3HhKOCK)

— ADL (@ADL) *April 16, 2024*

No doubt, the torment **Trump** is enduring is important. But it is just one minute in a history of hate perpetuated by the devil and his allegiant servants, who look to make an example while distracting and tutoring a growing assemblage of more hate with eyes on consuming the globe.

If we want to fight evil and, in that, save the Jews, our nation needs to put factual history and **God** back into all education and all of society. Without this, we will continue to fight the same fights.

# [California bill to make purchasing child sex a felony amended, weakens certain penalties - CBS Sacramento \(cbsnews.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #child sex, #california, #corruption

Apr 16, 2024

SACRAMENTO — A California bill that pushes for harsher penalties against people who buy sex from children moved forward Tuesday, but not without a fight between members of the public safety committee and the bill's author Senator Shannon Grove.

The original bill, authored by Senator Shannon Grove, would make soliciting a minor for sex, agreeing to engage or engaging in any form of commercial sex with a child a felony offense with a sex offender registry required on repeat offenses.

However, Democrats on the public safety committee amended the bill to exempt 16- and 17-year-olds from the penalties and reduce the punishment from two years in prison to up to a year in county jail.

Grove got emotional while addressing the committee about the changes made to the bill.

"You have a committee forcing amendments in front of survivors that are advocating for this bill," Senator Grove said. "I'm incredibly disappointed that not only did my colleagues reject my proposal to make the buying of children for sex a prison felony, but that I was blindsided when they amended my bill without my consent."

Those against the bill including Senator Scott Wiener said they fear it could target the wrong people by punishing young adults in consensual relationships with minors.

"This bill goes well beyond human trafficking. I think human trafficking, we should throw the book at them. This bill would sweep in a lot of people who are not trafficking. This bill will send people to state prison, on the sex registry, which is basically in many ways the end of their life," Sen. Wiener said.

Shane Harris, President of the People's Association of Justice Advocates, joined alongside Sen. Grove in a press conference before the committee hearing to express support for the bill. As a criminal justice advocate, Harris said this would protect the most vulnerable Californians.



"Part of the reason that I'm supporting the bill and what, and have been supporting it, is because 60% of trafficked victims are actually fostered youth, or have been in foster care," Harris, who is a former foster child himself, said.

He also disagreed with the move to make amendments.

"I think it is just completely delirious that these senators who sit on this committee, some of them decided to go the way of amending the bill without the author's consent," Harris said. "It explains where we are in this state when it comes to how we view our children and our most vulnerable children."

The author, along with advocates, accused the committee of watering down the bill to the point they may not support it moving forward.

"It does not roll the clock back on criminal justice reform. If you think that it does, you cannot tell time and it's time to hold these perpetrators of child sex trafficking accountable in this state," Harris said.

In a statement responding to changes made and the future of the bill Senator Grove's office said:

*"Senator Grove is actively discussing the next steps with her joint authors, coalition of survivors and advocates who are deeply invested in the outcome of this bill."*

# [Tsunami possible in Indonesia as Ruang volcano experiences explosive eruption, prompting evacuations - CBS News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #tsunami, #indonesia, #volcano

Apr 18, 2024

Indonesian officials warned on Wednesday that tsunami waves could be possible as the [eruption of Mt. Ruang intensifies](#). In a press release with the warning, officials said the status of the volcanic eruption, which has been occurring for days, is now at its highest level.

Indonesia's National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, known as BNPB, said Mt. Ruang, located in the North Sulawesi province, "[experienced an explosive eruption](#)" with a column of ash reaching more than a mile high from the peak on Tuesday before it extended even further to a mile-and-a-half a day later. On Thursday, there was "another explosive eruption" officials said, with a cloud of black ash reaching nearly two miles high.

Thursday's eruption was "accompanied by roaring sounds and an earthquake," they added.

"The eruption of Ruang volcano caused ash rain accompanied by stones and gravel and reached residential areas on the Tagulandang coast," the agency said, citing reports from the Sitaro Regency Regional Disaster Management Agency. "Several residents were reported to have been hit by thrown gravel and rocks and have received intensive treatment."

Those in the Tagulandang Island area and within a roughly four-mile radius of the volcano were told to immediately evacuate. According to the Associated Press, [more than 11,000 people](#) have now been ordered to leave. People who reside along the coast were also warned that tsunami waves "could be triggered by the collapse of a volcanic body into the sea."

This fear is amplified by the [1871 eruption of Ruang](#) that caused just that. It was witnessed by Adolf Bernhard Meyere, whose description of the event was published in the journal Nature. He described the event as "frightful," saying that three minutes after the eruption occurred, "a large sea-wave reached the shore of Tagoelanda...and destroyed three villages with 416 men."

# [Pastors praying for Israel in response to Iran launching attack | World News \(christianpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #prayers, #israel, #united, #church

Apr 14, 2024

Iran threatens 'severe response' if US, Israel retaliate

Prominent Christian leaders worldwide are urgently calling for prayers for peace and security in Israel after Iran initiated a significant aerial assault on Israel, deploying hundreds of drones and missiles early Sunday, intensifying existing regional tensions and pushing the Middle East closer to a broader conflict.

Security officials reported the launches from Iran included over 300 drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles, an attack described by Israel's military as potentially escalating to major conflict levels, Reuters [reported](#). Despite the vast number of launches, Israel's advanced defense systems successfully intercepted the majority of these threats, as much as 99%, the Israel Defense Forces said.

From Tehran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards confirmed the strikes, framing them as retaliation for an April 1 attack on its consulate in Damascus, which resulted in the deaths of two high-ranking officers. While Israel has maintained silence over allegations of its involvement, the incident has stirred considerable international response, with President Joe Biden affirming robust support for Israel.

Prominent religious leaders have voiced their concerns and called for peace.

Pastor Greg Laurie of the Harvest Fellowship in California and Hawaii [pointed to](#) the biblical significance of the attacks.

"As American evangelicals, we want our Jewish friends to know that we stand behind the Jewish homeland and her people," Laurie wrote on X. "This attack is on the heels of the horrific attack from Hamas, which is a proxy of Iran on Israel on October 7th."

He added, "We pray that God almighty would protect Israel at this hour and we are to 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.' (Psalm 122:6) One of the signs of the end time is an increase in anti-Semitism and the increasing isolation of the state of Israel. we are certainly seeing that happen before our very eyes."

Similarly, Jack Hibbs, a senior pastor, also [connected current events](#) with biblical prophecies.

“This could be [the] hook that is set into the jaw of Gog ... that would be Russia. ... And if Russia gets involved, then we could see Ezekiel 38 unfold. ... A lot of great scholars believe that the Rapture could happen before the Ezekiel battle,” Hibbs, of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, said in a video post on X, urging his followers to spread the word and pray.

Radio host Fr. Calvin Robinson [wrote](#): “Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; Kindle, we pray thee, in every heart the true love of peace; and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The Rev. Johnnie Moore, the president of the Congress of Christian Leaders, [wrote](#) that Christian congregations worldwide will be dedicating themselves to prayer for the peace and security of Israel. “There will be hundreds of millions of prayers prayed.”

The global community was also quick to react. Condemnations rolled in from the United Nations and several countries, highlighting the recklessness of the Iranian regime's action and its potential to spark further escalation.

From Paris, the French government emphasized the attack's risk to regional stability, a sentiment echoed by authorities in Britain and Germany.

In a detailed response to the aggression, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari of Israel noted the strategic success of their defense systems, which managed to neutralize most of the threats outside Israel's borders, as [reported](#) by the AP. “A wide-scale attack by Iran is a major escalation,” Hagari stated during a press briefing. He refrained from outlining potential retaliatory steps but confirmed ongoing defensive measures.

The U.S. has played a pivotal role in the current situation, with Biden directing the movement of aircraft and missile defense systems to the region over the past week. “Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our service members, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles,” Biden stated.

Further, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin confirmed that American forces intercepted numerous missiles and UAVs heading toward Israel, launched not only from Iran but also from locations in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Despite the high interception rate, several missiles breached Israeli defenses, causing minor damage to an air base and injuring a 7-year-old girl in southern Israel. The Israeli military has ramped up its alert status, closing airspace and advising civilians in threatened areas to seek shelter.

Israel and Iran have seen escalating tensions over the past months, particularly with the ongoing conflict involving Hamas in Gaza, which has drawn in various regional players and extended the battlefield across Lebanon, Syria and even as far as Yemen.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said a more severe attack would be launched if Israel or its allies retaliate, the Qatari government-run [Al Jazeera](#) reported.

“If the Zionist regime [Israel] or its supporters demonstrate reckless behavior, they will receive a decisive and much stronger response,” Raisi said in a statement on Sunday.

Iran's military chief, Major-General Mohammad Bagheri, said the Iranian attack on Israel “has achieved all its goals, and in our view the operation has ended, and we do not intend to continue.” He also warned of a “much larger” attack if Israel strikes back at Tehran.

# [Ex-Witch Baptizes 200 on Florida Beach - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #baptism, #witchcraft, #salvation

Apr 4, 2024

More than 200 people were baptized along a scenic Florida beach on Easter Sunday as part of a worship service hosted by a revivalist who once dabbled in the occult before she was freed by Christ.

Jenny Weaver, a revivalist and senior leader of the Core Group mentorship organization, organized and led the service, which featured communion, singing and baptisms under the sunny skies of Clearwater Beach. More than 200 were baptized, according to [CBN](#).

Weaver's Instagram account is filled with pictures and videos of the event showing hundreds of people gathering in the water and on the beach and pier, as joy-filled individuals -- one by one -- are baptized.

"We're taking back territory that Satan stole," she wrote on Instagram.

She described the scene as "something out of the pages of the Bible or a movie."

"It was so surreal to see this massive crowd gather and mind you they had to walk through a magic show at the entrance of the pier to get to where we were and the people were drawn in by the presence of God to walk away from the magic show and come to the water of baptisms and many watched and cried," she wrote. "THIS IS A MOVE OF GOD!!!"

Samantha Virella of Esther Awaken Ministry attended the event and said it "changed my family and me."

"This is just the beginning of what I believe is a revival for the nations," Virella [wrote](#). "God is renewing us, setting us apart for such a time as this. As we emerge from the waters, we are reminded of the new life and purpose He has for us."

Before Weaver was a Christian, she was a self-described witch. She was also addicted to drugs and living on the streets, CBN reported.

"You would feel demon spirits literally walking by you like a human being was walking by you," she told CBN. "Touching you. Scraping the wall. It went from, 'Oh, this is gonna be really fun,' into, 'I'm gonna choke you out until you die. I'm gonna take your life.' All the time. Constantly tormented."

After she became a Christian, she formed Core Group as a mentorship program for women, although it has since grown to include men and children.

“People are so used to going to church, hearing a sermon, high-fiving their neighbor, walking out, but sometimes there is no real transformation and actual change,” Weaver told CBN. “In these groups, the women come in and they expect to meet with God.”

The mass baptism service likely will not be the last one, she said.

“Revival is HERE!!!!” she wrote. “I’m praying about where to do the next one.”