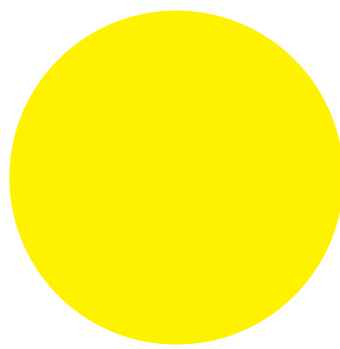


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## *Pezeshkian:* Iranians must stand united against Israel's aggression

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a parliamentary session in Tehran on June 16, 2025.  
IRNA

### From Iron Dome to collapse of legitimacy

## Two decades of Israel's strategic miscalculations



By Kamran Yeganegi  
Foreign policy expert

O P I N I O N  
E X C L U S I V E

In the turbulent landscape of the Middle East, if one state stands as a symbol of miscalculated security strategies, it is undoubtedly Israel — a state that, over the past two decades, has not only failed to establish sustainable security for itself or the region but has also squandered a golden opportunity to become a constructive force through its obsession with militaristic policies. Over these years, the Israeli regime has poured massive resources into military hardware — such as the Iron Dome defense system — targeted assassinations, precision bombings, and proxy wars. Yet its recent encounter

with Iran's retaliatory strike has laid bare the bankruptcy of such a strategy. A system long touted as the epitome of "security invincibility" collapsed within hours under the precision of Iranian missiles. This event not only signified a military failure but also marked the beginning of Israel's political delegitimization on the global stage. Beyond technical and military shortcomings, what has further eroded Israel's standing is a series of persistent strategic blunders in foreign and regional policy:

#### 1. Diplomatic failures and growing isolation

Israel has failed to prevent diplomatic isolation, particularly in its relations with Europe, Latin America, and even some Arab states. Its aggressive policies in the West Bank, rampant settlement expansion, and the ongoing repression of Palestinians have eroded its moral legitimacy and weakened support from

traditional allies. Today, resolutions condemning Israeli policies pass the UN with overwhelming majorities.

#### 2. Ignoring geopolitical shifts in the region

While the Middle East has shifted toward new paradigms of economic synergy and regional bloc-building, Israel clung to outdated threat-centric doctrines. From the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to the rise of South-South partnerships, Israel effectively sidelined itself from emerging regional diplomacy and lapsed into strategic inertia.

#### 3. Militarism without political vision

From Operation Cast Lead (2008–2009) to Guardian of the Walls (2021), Israel has repeatedly responded to resistance threats with an iron fist — offering no meaningful political or economic strategy to complement its military actions. This overreliance on force has perpetuated cycles of violence, vengeance,

and despair rather than eliminating its adversaries.

#### 4. Failure to manage the Palestinian conflict

Peace with the Palestinians could have been Israel's gateway to long-term legitimacy and stability. Instead, Tel Aviv persistently undermined this path by expanding settlements in the West Bank, especially after 2005, thus nullifying the prospects of meaningful dialogue. These actions have significantly tarnished Israel's global reputation and deepened its diplomatic isolation.

Today, neither military threats, separation walls, expensive technologies, nor media propaganda can satisfy domestic public opinion or the conscience of the international community. The Israeli public deserves to know how billions in taxpayer money were funneled into a mirage called "security" — when such resources could have built a thriving, peace-oriented, and regionally inte-

grated future.

Most critically, Israel's strategic error in engaging directly with Iran has proven to be a catastrophic miscalculation. Beyond its overstretched military capacity, this move has re-legitimized Iran's defensive narrative and rallied solidarity across the Islamic world. A regime that once sought to portray itself as the perpetual victim now stands exposed as the provocateur threatening regional stability.

Ultimately, we must acknowledge a truth deeper than military statistics or diplomatic spin: The decline of power is not always about losing borders; Sometimes, it is about losing legitimacy.

And that is precisely what is unfolding — quietly, yet irrevocably — in Tel Aviv. Today, Israel stands before history as a lonely, shaken, and accused actor. And history is a patient, yet unforgiving judge.





# Pezeshkian: Iranians must stand united against Israel's aggression



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a parliamentary session in Tehran on June 16, 2025.  
● president.ir

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the Iranian people need unity and solidarity more than ever and must join hands and stand firmly against the aggression of the Israeli regime. Pezeshkian made the remarks during a parliamentary session on Monday, where he condemned the criminal assaults of the Israeli regime in the killing of several Iranian military commanders and scientists, as well as dozens of civilians. "The enemy cannot remove us or our nation from the scene through violence, killings, and assassinations," Pezeshkian said, adding, "For every hero who falls, hundreds more will rise to carry the flag and stand against the oppression, injustice, crimes, and betrayal committed by these aggressors." "This is what our people have consistently demonstrated—standing strong in the face of all such atrocities," he said. The president called for national unity, stressing that Iran is not the aggressor in this war. "Today, more than ever, we need solidarity and cohesion. All Iranians must come together and stand firmly against this act of aggression."

Whatever differences or problems exist must be set aside now. We must unite and resolutely confront this genocidal criminal aggression." Pezeshkian said that Iran has the right to benefit from nuclear energy and research that serves the nation's interests, and added that no one has the right to deny this right to the Islamic Republic. "We stand firm in achieving this right and fear no power in securing what is rightfully ours. We have extended a hand of brotherhood to all Islamic nations—for they are all our brothers. Today, most, if not all, of them stand with us and by our side," he further said. The US is resorting to bullying, violating international norms by allowing Israel to attack and invade our country, he said, underscoring that Iran has never sought war nor initiated it. Attributing the assassination of senior Iranian commanders and scientists to the Israeli terrorists, he asks, "What crime did a scientist commit to deserve being murdered, along with his family, by someone from the other side of the world?" The Israeli regime assassinated numerous Iranian military commanders, scientists, and martyred civilians - including women and children - early Friday morning. Among those assassinated are Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces; IRGC Commander-in-Chief Hossein Salami; Brigadier General AmirAli Hajizadeh, head of the IRGC Aerospace Division; senior IRGC commander General Gholam Ali Rashid; and Brigadier General Mohammad Kazemi, head of the IRGC's Intelligence Organization. Nuclear scientists Fereydoon Abbasi, Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani, and Abdolhamid Minoucher were also killed in separate attacks. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has launched several waves of retaliatory strikes - the eighth since Friday - against the occupied Israeli regime as part of "Operation True Promise III." The Iranian president in a post on X said that, the government will do its utmost to prevent any disruption to people's daily lives. He said that Iran has never been the aggressor but "We join hands against the barbaric criminal with strength."

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## Madanizadeh approved as Economy Minister with overwhelming majority

### Economy Desk

The Iranian Parliament Monday gave a vote of confidence to Ali Madanizadeh as the new Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance nominated by President Masoud Pezeshkian. Madanizadeh won 171 out of 246 votes cast in the confidence ballot in the 290-seat legislature. Some 67 voted against, while 8 abstained. Iranian lawmakers on March 2 impeached and voted to remove former minister Abdolnasser Hemmati from office over economic woes and the sharp devaluation of the national currency. Madanizadeh, in an in-depth interview



Ali Madanizadeh

last week, laid out his vision for economic reforms, stressing that he has never been a political figure, but rather, as an expert and academic, he has always taken it upon himself to assist governments in tackling economic challenges and improving people's livelihoods.

Born in 1982, Madanizadeh is an associate professor of Economics at Sharif University of Technology. He holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from Sharif University of Technology, a master's degree in computational mathematics from Stanford University, and a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago. His areas of expertise include macroeconomics, monetary and fiscal policies, international trade, and industrial structures — topics that play a central role in both his teaching and research. He takes the position amid Israel's ongoing aggression against Iran that routinely targets the latter's civilian infrastructure.

## IRGC: Damage, losses inflicted on Israel 'far beyond imagination'

### Putin, Erdogan urge 'immediate' end to Israel-Iran conflict

#### International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Monday that the damage inflicted on the Israeli regime by Operation True Promise III "far exceeds" what the regime had expected. "Approximately 20 hours after the enemy's initial assault, Operation True Promise III was conducted while the Zionist regime was at peak of defensive readiness. Having anticipated Iran's potential response, they had activated all their air defense systems and even secured airspace control over neighboring countries," IRGC's Deputy Commander for Political Affairs Brigadier General Yadollah Javani said in an interview released on Monday. Saying that the regime resorted to terrorist acts amid diplomatic engage-

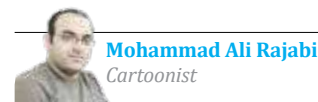
missile attacks on Israel - including Tel Aviv and Haifa - killing at least eight people hours after the Israeli military again bombed the Iranian capital, Tehran. Iran's attacks have claimed the lives of more than 20 Israelis while the death toll from Israel's attacks on Iran has risen to more than 220, including 70 women and children. "A number of our prominent figures and a large number of our compatriots were martyred in this cruel aggression," he added. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Monday for an "immediate" end to fighting between Israel and Iran in a phone conversation, the Kremlin said. "The leaders called for an immediate end to hostilities and the settlement of contentious issues, including those related



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men inspect the damage at the site of an Iranian missile strike in Bnei Brak, east of Tel Aviv, on June 16, 2025.  
● JOHN WESSELS/AFP

ments, he added that "they believed their strikes on Iran's military and missile sites had completely destroyed the Islamic Republic's defensive and offensive capabilities—leaving Iran unable to execute operations on par with True Promise I & II." Javani highlighted the diversity of missiles used in the operation, saying, "Official reports confirm that in addition to long-range ballistic missiles, we successfully deployed new drones such as the 'Arash' into the airspace of the Israeli occupied territories." This unprecedented diversity of projectiles - never before deployed with such precision into the occupied territories - left the enemy in utter shock, he said, adding that the operation was so powerful that it went beyond what even Israeli authorities and US President Donald Trump anticipated. Iran launched a new wave of ballistic

to Iran's nuclear program, exclusively through political and diplomatic means," the Kremlin said in its readout of the call. Erdogan accused Israel of threatening security in the Middle East, saying that, "The spiral of violence that began with Israel's attacks on Iran has put the security of the entire region at risk." His office said he told Putin that the "lawless attitude" of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet "poses a clear threat to the international system", adding that the Middle East "cannot tolerate a new war". In a phone call with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Erdogan said Turkey is ready to play a "facilitating role" to end the conflict. Erdogan, who stepped up diplomatic calls on the conflict over the weekend, has slammed Israel's "banditry" and said Israel, was seeking to drag the world into "disaster" after a wave of strikes on Iran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

