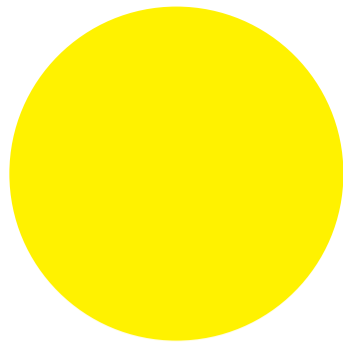


Iran's oil sales surge past pre-war levels



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## Third Leader vows vengeance for blood of martyrs

Regional countries should close US bases: **Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei**

### Iranians March Under Fire

### Millions brave bombardments to mark International Quds Day



The combo shows Iranians in Tehran (L) and Isfahan rally to mark International Quds Day on March 13, 2026 amid an ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran.

#### International Desk

Iranians in their millions poured into the streets nationwide to commemorate International Quds Day, a major annual event aimed at expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause and condemning Israeli atrocities in Palestine. The event, which falls on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan, this year coincided with an all-out US-Israeli war on Iran which broke out on February 28. In the capital Tehran, enemy

warplanes carried out airstrikes as people were marching toward the iconic Enghelab Square, causing casualties. The aggression has claimed over 1,300 Iranian lives and left more than 10,000 injured, with a significant number of deaths being children. The demonstrators, chanting slogans and waving Iranian and Palestinian flags, renewed their allegiance to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, who was declared as Iran's new Leader on March 9 by the As-

sembly of Experts to succeed his father, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated in an airstrike on his residence in Tehran during the first day of the US-Israeli offensive. They held portraits of the new Leader, signaling their support for his leadership and commitment to the ideals of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In Tehran's Enghelab Square, participants chanted "God is Great" in response to explosions that were heard during the rally. The atmosphere of defiance and

solidarity was palpable, with people pledging their loyalty to the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and his vision for the liberation of Palestine. Top officials attended the demonstrations, with President Masoud Pezeshkian seen walking alone on the street, without any security escort. Speaking at the rally in Tehran, Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani rebuked US President Donald Trump for his failure to understand the re-

solve of the Iranian people. "The Iranian people are a determined and capable nation, and the more pressure Trump applies, the stronger our will becomes," Larijani said. Responding to a question about Israeli attacks on Quds Day participants, Larijani said that such actions were driven by "fear and desperation," adding that air raids laid bare the Israeli regime's weakening position. International Quds Day was first proposed by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979, who desig-

nated the last Friday of Ramadan as a day of global solidarity with the Palestinians. The initiative is aimed at preventing the Palestinian cause from being forgotten amid other global issues. Over the years, Quds Day has become a symbol of resistance against the occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel, with rallies held in numerous countries worldwide, including across West Asia, North Africa, and in Western nations like the US, the UK, France, and Germany.

## Looming cyber warfare

By Sajad Abedi  
Political affairs expert

PERSPECTIVE  
EXCLUSIVE

In recent decades, cyber warfare has emerged as one of the most critical global security challenges. However, this kind of war is no longer confined to the boundaries of simple, classic cyberattacks. With technological advancements and the vast ex-

pansion of the internet, "Cyber Warfare 1+" has transformed into a more advanced and sophisticated form. This evolution, known as Advanced Cyber Warfare (ACW), reflects a fundamental shift in the structures, objectives, and tools utilized within cyberspace.

#### 1. Concept of ACW

ACW refers to the strategic use of cutting-edge technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and big data analytics within the cyber domain. This generation of

warfare is no longer limited to attacking computer systems or information networks; it is gravitating toward strikes that exploit automated systems, the Internet of Things (IoT), and even the smart infrastructures of cities and industries.

For instance, an advanced cyber-attack could leverage AI to identify user behavioral patterns and then employ "intelligent phishing" to extract sensitive data. Similarly, an assault on industrial control systems could lead to

disruptions in energy production or water distribution.

#### 2. Accelerants of cyber warfare evolution

Several key factors play a role in the advancement of cyber warfare: Technological progress: AI, machine learning, and big data tools have enabled the execution of complex attacks.

Expansion of IoT: The increasing number of internet-connected devices has created more vulnerabilities within systems.

Growing digital dependency: From banks to transportation and medical systems, everything now depends on the digital realm. Shift in attack objectives: Today, the goal is often not just data theft, but the destruction of systems, economic disruption, and even threats to national security.

#### 3. Real-world examples of ACW

A prominent example is Stuxnet. Discovered in 2010, this virus was specifically designed to sab-

otage nuclear process control systems in Iran. Stuxnet exploited several security flaws in Windows and industrial control systems to disrupt their operations. Another example is the evolution of Ransomware, which is now conducted through sophisticated phishing and network penetration aided by AI. For instance, the WannaCry virus in 2017 utilized a Windows security vulnerability to spread globally, affecting over 200 countries.