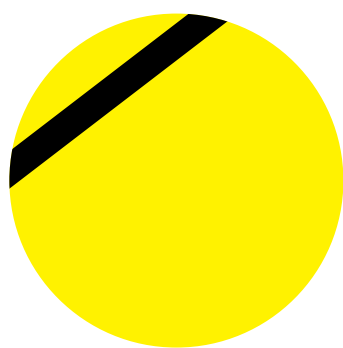


Population
tops 87m as
Iran gears up
for first digital
census

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Iran vows to use all means to defend rights, national security amid US aggression

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America's plan to drag Arab countries into regional war

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

Following the 12-day and 40-day wars waged by the United States and Israel against Iran, and the failure to achieve the primary objectives of this military aggression, a growing wave of global criticism has emerged regarding the initiation and continuation of the conflict. Critics rightly point out that the war not only failed to topple the Islamic Republic, destroy Iran's nuclear facilities, or eliminate the Islamic resistance forces supporting Iran, but also resulted in the Strait of Hormuz coming under the control of Iran's armed forces and an unprecedented rise in oil prices.

Consequently, with the reduction in oil supply and the sharp increase in the price of this strategic commodity, it is the global economy that is now paying the price for the fantasies and adventurism of Trump and Netanyahu. On the other hand, the United States and Israel, unwilling to retreat from their flawed positions and policies against Iran or to admit their political and military defeat in the recent warmongering, have in the past week set in motion a dangerous plan: the direct involvement of Arab countries in the war. The first step of this plan was taken with the joint Saudi-American attack on Iraq and the headquarters of the Hashd al-Shaabi forces (Popular Mobilization Forces). A suspicious explosion in Egypt was also carried out with the same objective, ensuring that Cairo would not remain outside the American theater of war. Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan have likewise suffered from this American scheme in recent weeks.

It is worth recalling that from the very first day of the joint US-Israeli war on February 28, 2026—approximately five months ago—American military bases in Arab countries, from which attacks on Iran were launched, were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones. Tehran repeatedly stated that these operations were carried out reluctantly and out of necessity and should not be interpreted as a violation of the sovereignty of Arab countries. Indeed, even before the war, the Islamic Republic had warned that if Iran were attacked from any base or territory anywhere in the world, its armed forces would consider striking that base their legitimate right.

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Iranian pilgrims flood Iraq for Arba'een pilgrimage

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Pilgrims walk toward Karbala to participate in the Arba'een pilgrimage after crossing through the Iraq-Iran border at Zurbatiyah, south of Baghdad on July 29, 2026.

AFP



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