

*Netanyahu:*

# Israel's Air attack on Iran was 'Precise and Powerful,' achieved all goals



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel's air attack on Iran over the weekend was "precise and powerful" and achieved all its goals, while Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei warned that Tehran officials would determine how best to respond to the strikes. "We promised we would respond to the Iranian attack and on Saturday we struck... The attack in Iran was precise and powerful, achieving all of its objectives," Netanyahu said at a ceremony marking the Hebrew calendar anniversary of the Hamas attack on October 7 last year.

Israel launched a long-awaited retaliatory strike against Iran early Saturday, almost four weeks after the Islamic Republic's massive ballistic missile barrage on the country, with the military saying the Israeli Air Force strikes targeted strategic military sites — specifically drone and ballistic missile manufacturing and launch sites, as well as air defense batteries. Iran had been bracing for a reprisal after its latest direct attack on Israel, in which it fired 200 ballistic missiles that sent most of the population to bomb shelters on October 1, killed a Palestinian man in the West Bank, and caused damage in residential areas and at military bases — although the IDF said that the attack had no operational impact. "Iran attacked Israel with hundreds of ballistic missiles and this attack failed," Netanyahu said. "We kept our promise. The air force attacked Iran and hit Iran's defense capabilities and missile production." Saturday's strikes followed a systematic, months-long campaign to "sever the arms of the Iranian octopus, Hezbollah and Hamas," Netanyahu

said. "Two days ago, we struck the head of the octopus, the Iranian regime."

Addressing the Iranian people, he said, "Our fight is not against you," but rather against the regime that oppresses them and threatens the region. Also speaking at the October 7 memorial ceremony, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that the "precise, lethal and surprising" attack on Iran sent a clear message — "Israel's long arm will reach anyone who tries to harm us." "There is no place too far away for us," he said.

Following the strikes on Saturday, Iran confirmed Israel had targeted military sites around the capital and in other provinces but appeared to downplay the impact, saying the raids caused "limited damage" but killed four soldiers. In his first public comments since Israel's reprisal attacks, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said Tehran officials should determine how best to respond. "Israel made a mistake [with its attack]. They exaggerated, of course," Khamenei said. "To exaggerate about this is a mistake. But deriding this [attack] is also a mistake." According to the state IRNA news outlet, Khamenei said Israel "should understand the strength, will, and initiative of the Iranian nation," adding that Tehran's response would be "determined by the officials and that which is in the best interest of the people and the country should take place." Israel's airstrikes on Saturday **crippled Tehran's ability to produce long-range ballistic missiles** in a blow that will be hard and time-consuming to recover from, and rendered crucial energy facilities vulnerable to future attacks by destroying air defense batteries protecting them, according to multiple reports citing Israeli, American and Iranian officials, as well as satellite images analyzed by experts. The operation, hitting targets some 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) away, was unprecedented in terms of its scale and duration, and Israel's immediate acknowledgment of responsibility. A short while after the strikes on Saturday morning, the Israeli military said the operation had given the IAF "wider freedom of aerial action in Iran," and that it had a broad bank of targets that it could hit in the future if required.