

Israel attacks Iran's nuclear and missile sites

1 On June 13, Israel bombed Iran's nuclear development and ballistic missile facilities. The attack reportedly hit both military and civilian targets across multiple locations. Iran retaliated by launching missiles and drones at Israel, hitting cities like Tel Aviv and Bat Yam.

2 Israel's government justified its operation with the statement: "Iran was secretly building nuclear weapons. We acted in self-defense to protect ourselves." Over the past 12 days of fighting, Israeli strikes in Iran have killed over 600 people, while Iranian counterattacks have killed about 28 in Israel.

3 U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized: "This was an Israel-only attack. The United States was not involved."

4 According to the IAEA's May report, Iran's enriched uranium stockpile rose from around 270 kg to 400 kg, an increase of about 1.5 times in three months. Since April, U.S. President Trump has been engaging in negotiations with Iran. He indicated that if Iran limited its nuclear program, the U.S. might lift economic sanctions.

★IAEA(International Atomic Energy Agency) 国際原子力機関

5 On June 12, just before Israel's attack, the IAEA Board said that Iran had violated its nuclear agreement. It said Iran did not explain undeclared nuclear material at several sites and did not fully allow inspections.

nuclear site 核施設 ballistic missile 弾道ミサイル civilian target 民間目標 launch a missile ミサイルを発射する
counterattack 反撃 Secretary of State 国務長官 emphasize 強調する
stockpile 備蓄量 violate 違反する undeclared 未申告の inspection 検査 ★()

Q1 On June 13, what did Israel bomb?

Q2 How did Iran respond to Israel's bombing?

Q3 What reason did the Israeli government give for their attack?

Q4 Approximately how many people died in Iran and Israel during the 12 days of fighting?

Q5 ルビオ国務長官はどんな声明を出しましたか。

Q6 By how much did Iran's enriched uranium stock increase between February and May?

Q7 What condition did President Trump suggest for lifting U.S. economic sanctions?

Q8 What did the IAEA Board report on June 12, just before the attack?

Q9 Name two issues raised by the IAEA in its June 12 statement regarding Iran.

What are the Iranian nuclear sites that Israel bombed?

1 There are officially nine nuclear-armed countries: ① the five permanent UN Security Council members (UK, US, China, Russia, and France) plus India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel. Iran is not included.

2 So, what are these Iranian “nuclear sites” that were bombed by Israel? Are they power plants for electricity? —The answer is: No, they are not power plants.

3 The bombed sites are uranium enrichment facilities that process uranium for research or military purposes. The United States and Israel suspect that Iran is secretly working to develop nuclear weapons, which is why they targeted these sites.

4 To build a nuclear bomb, you need uranium or plutonium. Plutonium is made artificially, but uranium is mined from ore in countries like Kazakhstan, Canada, Australia, or Namibia. When uranium is enriched, it becomes suitable for weapons.

5 Iran has been suspected of developing nuclear weapons since 2002. This May, the IAEA found that Iran was not following international rules, and had undeclared nuclear sites for enriching uranium. This has raised international concern that Iran’s nuclear program may have a weapon-making purpose.

permanent 永久の Security Council 安全保障理事会 power plant 発電所 process 加工する
mine 採掘する ore 鉱石 下線①の意味は?()

- Q1 Which countries are officially recognized as nuclear-armed, and is Iran one of them?
- Q2 Are the bombed Iranian sites used for generating electricity?
- Q3 What is the main purpose of the Iranian nuclear sites that were bombed by Israel?
- Q4 What are the two materials needed to build a nuclear bomb?
- Q5 How can you obtain plutonium?
- Q6 How is uranium obtained and made suitable for use in weapons?
- Q7 Since when has Iran been suspected of developing nuclear weapons?
- Q8 What did the IAEA discover about Iran’s nuclear activities in May?
- Q9 Why do you think undeclared nuclear sites are a serious issue in international politics?



The Best Place to Find Uranium

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ag8Bkao5Kak>

Trump bombs Iran's nuclear facilities

1 On June 22, President Trump ordered airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear sites: Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. The mission aimed to destroy those facilities and prevent further threats from Iran, which the U.S. labels a “state sponsor of terror.”

2 At a news conference, Trump said the attack was successful—a “spectacular military success.” Three B-2 stealth bombers launched from Missouri*, flew nonstop for about 18 hours to Iran, and were refueled in the air. This was the first U.S. attack on Iranian soil in history. *Missouri ミズーリ州

3 Experts suggest that Trump had three motives for the strike:

1) Show Israel that the job is done ... Trump wanted to reassure Israel by bombing Iran's nuclear sites. He hoped to signal, “We have acted—that should be enough, now stop the war.” This could reduce pressure on Israel to continue fighting.

2) Let Iran save face ... Experts suggest that Trump gave Iran a way to retreat without losing honor. By striking but allowing Iran to pull back, Iran could agree to pause the conflict without admitting defeat. This diplomatic step helps both sides avoid a full-scale war.

3) Win support at home by ending quickly ... Many Americans were divided; Some Trump-supporters backed the strike, but other core voters said, “Focus on America, not foreign wars.” This short and limited strike helped satisfy both groups.

airstrike 空爆 state sponsor of terror テロ支援国 stealth bomber ステルス爆撃機
refuel in the air 空中給油する save face 面目を保つ・顔を立てる retreat/pull back 撤退する
back 支持する core voter 熱心な支持者 ★()

Q1 On June 22, what did President Trump order?

Q2 What two main goals did the mission have?

Q3 How did President Trump describe the military outcome of the airstrikes at his news conference?

Q4 Which aircraft carried out the bombing? (Where did they depart from, and how long was the flight?)

Q5 Why was this airstrike historically significant?

Q6 What signal did Trump try to send to Israel by bombing Iran's nuclear sites?

Q7 イランの核施設爆撃により、トランプ大統領は、どのようにしてイランの面目を保ちましたか。

Q8 How did the strike help Trump gain support from different American voter groups?



LIVE: Trump addresses nation after US strikes on Iran nuclear sites/Associated Press

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVim4IaRsn0> 0 : 50～ 2 段落の記者会見

Why have Iran and Israel repeated conflicts?

It is not only Iran's suspected nuclear program that has caused enduring tension with Israel.

Why have Iran and Israel repeated conflicts?

1. The 1979 Iranian Revolution

1 In 1979, Ruhollah Khomeini led the revolution and overthrew the Shah's pro-Western government, establishing the Islamic Republic. Before this, Iran and Israel maintained friendly relations. However, after the revolution, Iran denied Israel's legitimacy, stating that Jerusalem – a sacred city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims – was unlawfully occupied by Israel.

2 Following the revolution, Iranian women were stripped of fundamental rights. Today, despite women making up about 70 % of university students, they still face severe restrictions: compulsory headscarves in public, and diminished rights in politics and the judiciary, reflecting persistent gender inequality.

2. Iran and Israel's proxy war

3 Iran has pursued a proxy warfare strategy by funding armed groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, rather than attacking Israel directly. These groups act on Iran's behalf, giving Iran a way to challenge Israel without being directly involved.

4 In 2023, when Israel carried out airstrikes on Gaza, Iran strongly accused Israel of war crimes. This made relations between the two countries reach their worst point in years.

enduring 永続的な tension 緊張状態 overthrow 転覆する legitimacy 正統性 sacred 聖なる
strip 奪う diminish 減少させる judiciary 司法 persistent 持続的な warfare 戦争 Shiite シーア派の
militia 市民軍・民兵 on one's behalf :~の代理で ★覚えた言葉()

Q1 What major political event happened in Iran in 1979, and who led it?

Q2 How did the 1979 revolution change Iran's relationship with Israel?

Q3 Why does Iran deny the legitimacy of Israel, according to the article?

Q4 How were Iranian women's rights affected after the revolution?

Q5 Despite their high university enrollment, what restrictions do Iranian women still face today?

Q6 What is a proxy war?

Q7 How has Iran used a proxy warfare strategy against Israel? (Name the armed-groups Iran supports.)

Q8 What specific event in 2023 worsened the conflict between Iran and Israel?

★次の文を3回ずつ読んで暗唱しましょう。

1. Israel's government justified its operation with the statement: "Iran was secretly building nuclear weapons. We acted in self-defense to protect ourselves."
2. Experts suggest that Trump let Iran save face by striking but allowing Iran to pull back, and Iran could agree to pause the conflict without admitting defeat.
3. Following the revolution, Iranian women were stripped of fundamental rights. Today, they still face severe restrictions such as compulsory headscarves in public.

(和訳)

1. イスラエル政府は、作戦を次のように言って正当化しました。「イランは密かに核兵器を製造していた。我々は自衛のために行動したのだ。」
2. 専門家たちは、トランプ氏がイランに“引くためのメンツ”を与えたと見えています。攻撃したものの、イランが撤退できる余地を残したことで、イランは敗北を認めずに紛争の一時停止に同意することができました。
3. 革命の後、イランの女性たちは基本的な権利を奪われました。現在も彼女たちは、公共の場でのスカーフ着用の義務など、深刻な制限に直面しています。

参考動画

	イスラエルの攻撃を受けたイラン国営テレビ局、黒焦げのスタジオを BBC 記者が取材/BBC Japan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnisDCd70pQ
	イランのミサイル攻撃を受けたイスラエルの集合住宅、BBC 特派員が取材/BBC Japan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgM5zvYJb0w
	トランプ氏、罵倒語を使いイスラエルとイランを非難/BBC Japan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kne3tUXkE88
	BREAKING: Iran acquires more uranium to make nuclear weapons/LiveNowfromFOX https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VrgY5L-xfg

[Essay]

Do you think it is acceptable to attack a country if you believe it is secretly developing nuclear weapons?
Why do you think so? Give two reasons.