



Buried but not out, Iran's ballistic missiles remain potent threat despite airstrikes

April 23, 2026 timesofisrael.com reported: "For six weeks, the United States and Israel pummeled Iran's military infrastructure, with US Central Command saying it had struck over 13,000 targets and Israel reporting some 4,000 of its own. Yet even in the final days before a two-week ceasefire was announced, Tehran continued to launch ballistic missiles at Israel and other states in the region.



While the rate of launches dropped sharply as the war progressed — from roughly 80 missiles fired at Israel on the first day to around 10-20 per day over the following weeks — the sustained attacks have raised questions about the extent of the damage inflicted in both the most recent war and an initial round of fighting in June.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth recently told reporters that the US-Israel bombing campaign had "functionally destroyed" Iran's missile program and rendered its military "combat ineffective for years to come."

Yet the IDF says over the roughly six weeks of fighting, it managed to set back Iran's missile project only partially, owing in part to the difficult-to-reach underground facilities..."

Two Israel Air Force technicians charged with spying for Iran

April 22, 2026 jpost.com reported: Two Israel Air Force technicians from Tel Nof Airbase, near Ashdod, will be charged with spying for Iran during Operation Roaring Lion, Israel's public broadcaster KAN News reported on Wednesday. The two technicians, who worked on IAF F-15 fighter jets, handed over documentation of the engine diagrams, as well as photographs showing the face of a flight instructor, which is against military censorship rules, according to suspicion.

They were also asked to gather information about former IDF chief Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Herzi Halevi and National Security Authorities are considering whether to increase the charges on one of the technicians to treason, rather than the lower charge of espionage, KAN stated.

Eight other soldiers on the base are suspected of knowing about the actions of the two technicians without reporting it to authorities, according to KAN..."

Sightings of Meteors Surge, and Scientists Aren't Sure Why

April 21, 2026 nytimes.com reported: It seems as though stars have been shooting across the heavens far more than usual lately.

In March, fireball after fireball coursed through the skies of North America and Europe. Some of the dazzling apparitions dropped meteorites in their wake. In Ohio, space shards set down in fields and forests. Other rocky visitors smashed through the roofs of people's homes and ricocheted around their bedrooms.

"It's a shooting gallery," said Mike Hankey, an amateur astronomer at the American Meteor Society. "There's stuff flying all over the place."

The number of fireballs over the first three months of 2026 was double what is usually reported to the society in the first quarter of other years.

"It does seem unusual, right?" said Bill Cooke, who leads the Meteoroid Environments Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Is something peculiar happening in space? Are there more fireballs screaming through the atmosphere than usual? And if so, why? --- In January and February, the society registered a gradual but notable uptick in reported fireballs. In March, that uptick became a spike. In total, during those three months, there were 40 fireballs seen by 50 or more people, twice the January-to-March average of 20 (an average calculated using data from 2021 to 2025).

Of those 40, 33 unleashed thunderclap-like sonic booms — a historic high in the society’s records — suggesting the space rocks responsible were often on the larger side. As an example, the meteor that exploded over Ohio on March 17 did so with the force of 370 tons of TNT...”

Arrests, hangings, blackout: Iran cranks up wartime repression

April 21, 2026 spacewar.com reported: “There has been no let up during the two-week ceasefire now due to end, with hangings of convicts seen as political prisoners a near daily occurrence and people arrested on charges such as simply sending videos to a media outlet abroad, according to rights groups.

This has come against the background of severe internet restrictions that monitor Netblocks said was a blackout that had now left Iranians disconnected from global networks for 53 days.

“The immediate release of all political prisoners arrested before or after the outbreak of the war must be a central condition of any agreement with the Islamic republic,” said Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, director of Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights.

IHR said on Tuesday that at least 3,646 people had been arrested since the war broke out on February 28, with at least 767 of the cases reported after the start of the ceasefire on April 8.

Charges include espionage, transmitting images or coordinates of sensitive locations to foreign-based media, attempting to establish operational cells or possessing a Starlink internet terminal. Iranian authorities on Tuesday also executed an eighth man over protests in January, which rights groups said were put down in a deadly crackdown that left thousands of people dead...”

Iran’s Revolutionary Guard sidelines president as military grip expands

April 21, 2026 foxnews.com reported: “Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the elite branch of the Iranian armed forces, has blocked President Masoud Pezeshkian’s presidential appointments and erected what sources described as a security cordon around Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, a report published Tuesday by Iran International said.

The IRGC effectively has assumed control over key state functions, the report claimed.

“It was always a matter of when, not if, the IRGC was going to step forward even more than it has in the last three decades,” Behnam Ben Taleblu, senior director of the Iran program at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told Fox News Digital.

Pezeshkian has reached a “complete political deadlock” as tensions between his administration and the military leadership deepen, according to the report.

The reported shift could have major consequences far beyond Iran. Analysts say a more powerful IRGC likely would mean a more confrontational Iran, less willing to compromise in talks with Washington and more inclined to continue military escalation across the region. With U.S.-Iran negotiations already faltering and uncertainty growing over whether Tehran will even send negotiators to the next round of talks, the rise of the Revolutionary Guard raises fresh doubts about who actually is making decisions in Iran and whether any civilian official can still speak for the regime...”

BREITBART: Iran Says No Plan for U.S. Peace Talk

April 20, 2026 breitbart.com reported: “Iran insisted it has no plan to attend a new round of negotiations with the United States on Monday, as uncertainty grows over a push to stop the Middle East war from resuming.

US President Donald Trump said he was sending negotiators to Pakistan for talks on ending the war that engulfed the region and rattled global markets, while repeating threats to attack Iran’s energy infrastructure if it did not make a deal.

After initial talks ended without a deal in Islamabad earlier this month, both sides have traded accusations of ceasefire violations, including the US seizure of an Iranian cargo ship early Monday that Trump said was trying to evade a US blockade of the country’s ports...”

