

Israel, confirming ceasefire, declares “campaign against Iran is not over”

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In the aftermath of a 12-day US-Israeli bombing campaign, Israeli officials have pledged to continue their “campaign against Iran.”

In a statement Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, chief of staff of the Israeli military, declared, “We have concluded a significant chapter, but the campaign against Iran is not over. We are entering a new phase, one that builds upon the achievements of the current operation.”

Reiterating these points, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would abide by the ceasefire with Iran announced Monday by US President Donald Trump, but that it would attack Iran again if it sought to continue enriching uranium.

“We have thwarted Iran’s nuclear project. And if anyone in Iran tries to rebuild it, we will act with the same determination, with the same intensity, to foil any attempt,” Netanyahu said.

Praising the outcome of the US-Israeli campaign, Netanyahu declared, “We eliminated many senior officials and attacked Revolutionary Guard bases. We struck a decisive blow to the Ayatollah regime, marking the hardest blow in its history. We eliminated hundreds of regime operatives in a crushing attack. I thank President Trump for his unwavering support.”

Netanyahu pledged to turn his attention to Gaza, where the US and Israel are carrying out a genocide of the Palestinian people, declaring, “We must complete the mission against the Iranian axis of evil by... destroying Hamas.”

Iran, for its part, pledged to continue its nuclear enrichment program after the Israeli assault. “We have exerted a huge effort to acquire this technology. Our scientists made massive sacrifices and even lost their lives for this goal,” Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Al-Araby al-Jadeed. “Our people have

endured challenges for this, and a war was imposed on our nation over this issue. It is certain that no one in Iran will give up this technology.”

Early on Tuesday, Trump lashed out wildly against both Israel, the US client state in the Middle East, and Iran, which the United States had just bombed, declaring “they don’t know what the f**k they’re doing.”

Using the cover of diplomacy, Israel launched a full-scale bombardment of Iran on June 13, killing 20 senior Iranian civilian and military personnel in a sneak attack. In the course of the 12-day US-Israeli onslaught on Iran, over 600 Iranians were killed and thousands wounded. On Sunday, the United States launched a bombing campaign against Iran’s nuclear enrichment sites using long-range bombers and cruise missiles.

Trump announced a ceasefire on Monday, which appeared to be in effect Tuesday.

Following his ceasefire announcement Tuesday, Trump traveled to the NATO summit in Brussels, which is set to announce major increases in military spending by all NATO members.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump shared a series of texts from NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who praised the illegal US attack on Iran. “Mr President, dear Donald, Congratulations and thank you for your decisive action in Iran, that was truly extraordinary, and something no one else dared to do. It makes us all safer,” Rutte wrote.

Despite Trump’s boastful claims about having obliterated what he called Iran’s “nuclear weapons” program, the actual damage inflicted on the program appears to have been limited.

On Tuesday, CNN, the *New York Times* and other media outlets disclosed a classified US intelligence report indicating that the attack set back Iran’s nuclear

program by only a few months.

The report indicated that most of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile was moved prior to the US attacks, meaning that little of it had been destroyed.

The report, published by the Defense Intelligence Agency, assessed that if Iran decided to create a nuclear weapon, it could do so in six months, as opposed to an earlier estimate of three months.

In a letter to Congress Tuesday, Trump claimed that the sites bombed by the US were part of a "nuclear weapons development program," despite earlier claims by US intelligence agencies that no such program existed. "United States forces conducted a precision strike against three nuclear facilities in Iran used by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its nuclear weapons development program," Trump wrote.

This contradicted the assessment presented in March by the Trump administration that Iran had not ordered the restarting of its nuclear weapons program, which it shut down in 2003.

Dominant factions within the US political establishment are already calling on the US and Israel to demand further concessions from Iran. An editorial published in the *Wall Street Journal* on Tuesday called for this month's war to be used as a springboard to force Iran to "dismantle what's left of the nuclear program and end its proxy warfare across the region."

Meanwhile, Israel continued its daily massacres in Gaza, killing 85 Palestinians, including 56 aid seekers at facilities operated by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). The same day, the US announced that it would deliver \$30 million to the foundation, at whose distribution centers Israeli forces have killed hundreds of civilians. Francesca Albanese, UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, had previously declared that the operations of the GHF are "humanitarian camouflage" and "an essential tactic of this genocide."



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