The future belongs to those who prepare today. Invest your time in the right guidance, disciplined practice, and focused learning — and watch your hard work turn into remarkable results.

Lalitmohan Dasadhikari

ISRAEL vs IRAN

Middle East on the Brink
The Battle for Nuclear Dominance

Disclaimer

The entire content & images in this document has been compiled purely for educational and informational purposes. The details, data, and narratives presented regarding Israel's Operation Rising Lion, Iran's response, and the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz have been sourced from publicly available news reports and global media coverage as of June 2025. This compilation does not reflect the personal opinions or positions of the author and is not intended to influence political views or incite geopolitical bias. All information is intended solely for academic study and analysis.

Israel vs Iran: Rising Tensions, Nuclear Threats, and the Strategic Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

Why Is Israel Attacking Iran?

Operation Rising Lion: The Strategic Aim

- ✓ In mid-June 2025, Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, a large-scale military campaign targeting over 100 Iranian military and nuclear sites
- ✓ Declared by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "targeted military operation to roll back the Iranian threat", it signals Israel's belief that Iran is on the brink of weaponizing enriched uranium—posing an existential threat .

Israel's stated objectives include:

- ✓ Disrupting Iran's nuclear-enrichment program, targeting key installations like Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan
- ✓ Neutralizing senior Iranian military leaders, such as IRGC chief Hossein Salami, armed forces head Mohammad Bagheri, and commander Gholamali Rashid
- ✓ Undermining Iran's retaliatory capabilities, including missile infrastructure and command networks

Israeli Military Actions

- ✓ Operation Rising Lion began on 13 June 2025, comprising combined IAF airstrikes, Mossad-coordinated drone sabotage, and targeted assassinations
- ✓ Mossad operatives reportedly established a covert drone base inside Iran, disabling air-defense batteries and ballistic missile launchers, paving the way for Israeli air raids
- ✓ Result: Iran's nuclear infrastructure set back, hundreds of military and civilian casualties, and critical leadership losses

Justifications from Israeli Government

- ✓ Netanyahu stressed the "clear and present danger", citing intelligence warnings of Iran nearing nuclear-weapon readiness in months or even weeks .
- ✓ Israel's intelligence claimed Iran's uranium enrichment reached 60% purity, dangerously close to weapons-grade (90%), enough material for over nine bombs

Iran's Retaliation and Regional Escalation

- ✓ Iran responded with a mass drone and missile barrage, including ~100 drones, which Israel intercepted .
- ✓ Tehran also hinted at shutting Strait of Hormuz as retaliation, escalating concerns
- ✓ Ongoing wide-ranging strikes suggest this is a prolonged campaign rather than a one-off attack

Broader Regional & Global Ramifications

- ✓ Israel's offensive marks an unprecedented overt escalation, transitioning beyond indirect "shadow war" tactics .

- ✓ The U.S. distanced itself, asserting no direct operational involvement, focused instead on protecting its regional forces .
- ✓ Iran may use strategic leverage (e.g., Strait blockade, targeting oil shipping) to pressure Gulf states and global energy markets

What Is the Strait of Hormuz—And Could It Be a Factor in the Conflict?

Geographic and Strategic Overview

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow, 34–60 km waterway between Iran and Oman/UAE, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea As a vital global energy corridor, it handles ~20 million barrels/day (~30% of seaborne oil, plus LNG) Control: Iran oversees most of its northern side, including the Tunbs and Abu Musa islands, granting strategic oversight

Iran's Chokepoint Strategy

Iran has a built-in Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) capability in the Strait, with fast attack crafts, naval mines, and missile batteries positioned to threaten shipping

Historically, Iran has threatened, but never fully closed the Strait—doing so would jeopardize its own oil exports and diplomacy

Current Threat Scenario

- ✓ In response to Israeli strikes, Iranian officials openly discussed serious consideration of a temporary closure
- ✓ Even a threat can spook global markets: Brent crude spiked over 7–13%, causing fears of price rises to $100–120 per barrel

Global Economic & Strategic Implications

- ✓ Disruption through Hormuz could disrupt 20% of global oil and LNG volumes, especially affecting Asia, India, Japan, China
- ✓ Insurance premiums have already surged, and shipping firms are avoiding the Strait—multiple tankers rerouting
- ✓ Alternatives (e.g., pipelines via Saudi/E & W pipeline, UAE's Fujairah route) have limited capacity (~4 mb/d vs. 20 mb/d total)
- ✓ Markets currently stable, but any real disruption could push crude above $120 per barrel, fueling global inflation and economic stress
- ✓ India is proactively diversifying energy sources—turning toward West Africa and strategic stockpiles .

Interplay Between the Two Issues

Linkage Component	Israel–Iran Conflict	Strait of Hormuz Risk
Military Leverage	Iran may threaten closure as retaliation for Israeli strikes	Purpose-built to exert pressure
Global Response	U.S. seeks de-escalation, naval presence in Gulf	Insurance hike, shipping rerouting
Economic Fallout	Oil prices spike on escalation, energy inflation risk	Sharp spikes, trade and stock shock
Strategic Risk	Conflict expanding beyond Iran-Israel into regional sea routes	Choked oil/LNG traffic causes disruption

Conclusion

- ✓ Israel's Operation Rising Lion reflects its strategic decision to act decisively against an emerging Iranian nuclear threat—targeting Iran's leadership and nuclear program infrastructure.
- ✓ Iran, unable to match Israel's air power directly, is leveraging regional pressure points—especially the Strait of Hormuz—to shift the battlefield towards the realm of global energy security.

- ✓ While no outright closure has occurred yet, the mere threat to this narrow choke point, which channels a third of world seaborne oil and LNG, has already rattled markets, disrupted shipping, and forced countries like India to re-evaluate supply strategies.
- ✓ Thus, the Israel-Iran military escalation has transcended the Middle East, evolving into a global strategic flashpoint, where military strikes and energy infrastructure collide—posing risks for regional stability, global oil markets, and economic growth worldwide.

Here's a comparison covering all key aspects of Israel's and Iran's intelligence agencies:

Aspect	Israel (Mossad, Shin Bet, Aman)	Iran (MOIS, IRGC Intelligence, Quds Force)
Main Agencies	Mossad (foreign), Shin Bet (domestic), Aman (military)	MOIS (civilian), IRGC Intelligence, Quds Force (external ops)
Control & Reporting	Prime Minister's Office	Supreme Leader, Islamic Revolutionary Leadership
Structure	Civil-military split, distinct agencies	Parallel military-civilian intel with IRGC dominance
Recruitment Focus	IDF elite units, academia, high-tech talent	Ideological loyalty, IRGC-linked universities, paramilitary networks
Primary Roles	Foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, military analysis	Regime protection, regional proxy warfare, espionage
Operational Domain	Global reach (Middle East, Europe, Africa, Americas)	Primarily regional (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen); limited global ops
Cyber Capabilities	Highly advanced (Unit 8200, AI-based tracking, offensive cyber ops)	Growing cyber units (APT33, APT35), focused on espionage and disruption
Assassination Operations	Surgical, high-profile (e.g., Soleimani, Fakhrizadeh, Hamas leaders)	Less successful, often through proxies or attempted kidnappings
Use of Proxies	Minimal use; prefers direct or covert operations	Heavy reliance on proxies (Hezbollah, Houthis, militias)
Major Achievements	Exfiltration of Iranian nuclear archives (2018), Stuxnet, Soleimani intel	Proxy network expansion, regional influence (Iraq, Syria, Yemen)
Nuclear Program Monitoring	Deep surveillance of Iranian facilities	Monitoring Israeli scientists and installations (limited success)
Counterintelligence	Strong domestic counterterrorism via Shin Bet	Effective internal suppression; external vulnerabilities remain
International Collaboration	Strong links with U.S., EU, Gulf states	Ties with Russia, China; relies on regional allies
Public Image & Perception	Technologically elite, professional, effective, yet controversial	Ideologically aggressive, regionally feared, globally distrusted
Oversight & Accountability	Parliamentary oversight, legal structures	Largely opaque, under Supreme Leader's direct influence

Aspect	Israel (Mossad, Shin Bet, Aman)	Iran (MOIS, IRGC Intelligence, Quds Force)
Signature Strengths	Precision operations, AI-driven intel, cyber warfare	Proxy coordination, regional insurgency support
Weaknesses	Risk of international backlash, limited proxy depth	Technological lag, internal agency rivalry, exposure to cyber threats
Current Status (2025)	Leading global intelligence force with recent successful ops in Iran	Embattled after key losses in Israeli strikes; facing internal critique

Israel vs Iran: Defence Comparison (2025)

Aspect	Israel	Iran
Military Doctrine	Defensive-offensive; rapid retaliation (e.g., "Iron Wall", "Doctrine of Dahiya")	Asymmetric warfare, regional proxy dominance, strategic depth doctrine
Active Military Personnel	~170,000 (plus 465,000 reservists)	~580,000 (including ~200,000 IRGC)
Defence Budget (2024 est.)	~$24 billion	~$10.6 billion
Nuclear Capability	Undeclared, but widely believed to possess 80–90 nuclear warheads	No declared weapons; uranium enrichment near weapons-grade (60%)
Air Power	>600 aircraft, including:	>500 aircraft, mostly older models (MiGs, Su-24s, F-4s)
	- 36+ F-35I 'Adir' stealth fighters (5th Gen)	- Russian-origin jets with limited upgrade
	- F-15, F-16 fleet	- Low combat-readiness due to sanctions
Missile Systems	- Jericho III (ICBM)	- Shahab series, Sejjil (MRBMs), Emad, Khoramshahr
	- Precision air-to-surface missiles	- High missile volume, less precision
Air Defence Systems	- Iron Dome (short-range)	- Bavar-373 (Iran's S-300 equivalent)
	- David's Sling (medium)	- Khordad-15, Raad, and Sayyad-3 systems
	- Arrow-2/Arrow-3 (anti-ballistic missile interceptors)	- Limited proven anti-ballistic capability
Naval Power	Small but advanced, focused on Mediterranean	Large fleet in Persian Gulf, focuses on asymmetric warfare
	- 5 Dolphin-class submarines (nuclear-capable)	- Fast attack boats, IRGC Navy, swarm tactics
	- Sa'ar missile boats, UAV boats	- Midget subs, mine warfare capability
Cyber Capabilities	Highly advanced (Unit 8200)	Growing rapidly (Iranian Cyber Army, APTs like APT33, APT34)
UAV/Drone Warfare	Extensive use; high-tech armed drones like Heron, Eitan, Harop	Large fleet of loitering munitions (Shahed-136), kamikaze drones

Aspect	Israel	Iran
Ballistic Missile Defence	Multi-layered defence (Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow-3)	Minimal BMD; relies on deterrence and proxy retaliation
Intelligence Agencies	- Mossad (foreign intel)	- MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence)
	- Shin Bet (internal security)	- IRGC Intelligence (powerful, parallel to MOIS)
	- Unit 8200 (cyber, signals intel)	- Strong HUMINT in West Asia, uses proxies
Proxy Networks	Limited direct proxies	Hezbollah, Houthis, Iraqi militias, Syrian paramilitary networks
Strategic Alliances	- Strong support from U.S., informal Gulf ties (Abraham Accords)	- Support from Syria, Hezbollah, some Chinese and Russian cooperation
	- High interoperability with NATO forces	- Sanctions limit access to modern tech
Weapons Imports/Tech Access	U.S., Germany, indigenous innovation	Sanction-hit; relies on Russia, China, indigenous reverse-engineering
Space/Military Satellites	Multiple ISR satellites; AI-based targeting systems	Early-stage space assets; relies on Russia for launches
Military Industry	Highly developed (IAI, Rafael, Elbit Systems)	Expanding self-reliance under sanctions (e.g., drones, missiles)