



## Day 22 of the Israeli-US war of aggression against Iran (Ticker 11:00 AM)

March 21, 2026 by [Peter F. Mayer / Jochen Mitschka](#) 13.5 minute read

**The war of aggression continues initially as an air war; only in Lebanon are there ground battles, while the world awaits the approximately 7,500 Marines that the US president has dispatched for a limited ground invasion. The first question is whether the ships will reach the vicinity unscathed. What else happened?**

US President Donald Trump has stated that the US is not seeking a ceasefire, but is considering ending military operations, as its objectives are nearly achieved. He called on other nations to protect the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, Iran is in the process of passing a law requiring countries using the Strait of Hormuz for shipping, energy, and food transport to [pay](#) customs duties and taxes to the Islamic Republic of Iran – as compensation for Iran's security measures. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has also clarified that every ship requires Iranian permission to transit the Strait of Hormuz – otherwise, it risks becoming a target of Iranian attacks. This underscores Iran's complete [control](#) over the waterway. Iran is thus following the example of several other countries that implemented precisely this concept some time ago.

Egypt has levied transit fees for passage through the Suez Canal for decades. These fees can range from hundreds of thousands to over a million US dollars, depending on the size and type of vessel, generating billions in [revenue](#) for the country annually – most recently reaching a record 8 billion dollars in 2022. Turkey transit fees per net ton for the natural Turkish Straits (Bosporus and Dardanelles) since 1936, based on the Montreux Convention [has also charged](#) . These fees are regularly adjusted and currently stand at 5.83 US dollars per ton (as of July 2025, following a 15 percent increase). Canada and the USA also levy fees for the St. Lawrence Seaway, to name just a few examples. Iran, therefore, remains the exception rather than the rule, as it does not charge such fees.

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei also sent a "defiant" message, declaring the attackers defeated.

Within the US: Donald Trump has received another rebuke from the judiciary of his predecessors. A federal judge in Washington has declared the Pentagon's restrictive press access policy unconstitutional. The policy, which could classify journalists as security risks for *unauthorized reporting* , was partially overturned in a case brought by the New York Times, and the press credentials of affected reporters [were reinstated](#) .

### **Iran threatens perpetrators of assassination attempts**

Following numerous assassinations by Israel of leading politicians and scientists, in some cases resulting in the deaths of entire neighborhoods, [Iranian Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi now announces](#) that Iran will hunt down all pilots, commanders and other participants in the attacks on Iran in the coming years.

*" Your criminal commanders, pilots, and soldiers will find safety nowhere. The officials and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran live among the people, like the people, and with the people. They are not like the officials and authorities of the terrorist Zionist regime and criminal America, who, due to their inability to confront the resistance of the heroic Iranian nation and the authority, will, and courage of the armed forces, hide in bunkers or use the population as human shields. The assassination of officials and authorities of the country, as well as some commanders of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is not a sign of the enemy's power, but rather a result of their desperation, helplessness, and malice. We are watching your cowardly officials and commanders, pilots, and criminal soldiers, and we will resolutely continue our powerful and devastating attacks against you."*

He threatened that the perpetrators would be dragged from their hiding places amidst humiliation, shame, and disgrace, and held accountable for their actions. Iran has apparently gathered sufficient information, which seems plausible given the increasing number of espionage trials in Israel and the documents that have been released; it had also already published lists of pilots' names.

### **The mutual attacks**

On the night of March 20-21, 2026, Iran (or its allies) carried out several [retaliatory attacks](#) . The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched its 70th wave of attacks, hitting more than 55 targets in the Middle East that were detrimental to US and Israeli interests. Iran also fired two

medium-range ballistic missiles at US and British military bases on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, [missed](#) . but according to Western sources, the missiles

Iranian drones attacked the Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery in Kuwait, causing a [fire](#) over eastern Saudi Arabia . [Five other Iranian drones were shot down](#) .

Hezbollah [fired](#) rockets at Israeli positions south of Maqba, Maroun al-Ras, and Kiryat Shmona. Additionally, there were successive [attacks](#) on a US logistics camp near Baghdad airport in Iraq. The extent of the damage is not yet known. An Iranian missile also struck [the](#) Old City of Jerusalem, although some claim it was an Israeli surface-to-air missile.

The attackers (primarily Israel) were active again that night. Israel launched [airstrikes](#) on Tehran, hitting a **residential building** ; the Iranian Red Crescent conducted rescue and search operations, as reported by the Iranian broadcaster Press TV.

There were loud explosions in several districts of Tehran, including the Ecbatan district near the Azadi Tower. Israel's actions are clearly not aimed at military objectives. The Israeli Air Force also launched [attacks](#) against Lebanon , **killing over 20 civilians** and injuring over 60. Syria was also [bombed](#) by Israel . Under the cover of the war against Iran, the apparent goal of further bombing is to clear the way for the Greater Israel.

**08:00:**

**180 Iranian ballistic missiles** were part of the largest attack wave intended to strike key **Israeli command and control hubs** . Launched from a valley south of **Shiraz**, **the missiles** traveled over **1,600 kilometers** directly toward **F-35 bases, air command infrastructure, and Mossad headquarters. Nevatim. Tel Nof. Hatzerim.** The Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv. Israel's F-35 fleet is stationed at Nevatim and Tel Nof.

Hypersonic Fattah missiles with glide vehicles that do not follow predictable trajectories, together with Shahab-3 variants... 180 of them simultaneously, overwhelming the multi-layered defense architecture that America and Israel have spent decades and hundreds of billions of dollars building.

Here is a schematic representation of the attacks:

**Did Iran use a Russian S-300 to shoot down a US F-35?** A US F-35 stealth fighter jet, damaged during a mission over Iran, may have been hit by a Russian-made missile, explains Igor Korotchenko, editor-in-chief of National Defense magazine. "In 2016, Iran received several divisions of the S-300PMU-2 surface-to-air missile system from Russia," says Korotchenko. "In all likelihood, it was a shot from precisely this system that brought down the American F-35 fighter jet."



The **Yemeni Ansar Allah movement** has signaled its readiness **the Bab el-Mandeb Strait** – the entrance to the Red Sea **to block** .

**8:30**

## **Germany and the Iran War**

After the German Chancellor described the illegal war of aggression against Iran as, in essence, "dirty work for us," and given that the US military base in Ramstein is a hub for the war against Iran, and a German minister essentially declared that international law does not apply to Iran, the Iranian ambassador's request for clarification regarding the role of Ramstein and, implicitly, Germany, should be taken seriously. Apparently, Iran has launched missiles at the US base in Diego Garcia, which [is approximately 4,000 km from Iran](#) . If this is confirmed, its capabilities during the war have doubled. Consequently, Ramstein, at a significantly shorter distance, has also become a target for Iranian missiles.

The escalation of this war is far from over.

**Saudi Arabia** is either relying on the US or submitting to US pressure. This is likely due, at least in part, to the economic interests and US accounts held by the country's leadership. The rulers [are now officially confirming](#) what has long been known unofficially: that the US is permitted to use Saudi Arabia's bases and airspace for operations against Iran.

The **UAE** , which was particularly hard hit by Iranian retaliatory strikes, will participate in the ground operation against Iran, according to the Military Summary Channel's report last night. **Ukraine** nuclear power plant, currently under construction by Russia [will also reportedly participate, and is expected to focus primarily on the Bushehr](#) , where the first reactor is already

operational. Several hundred Russian technicians are unable to leave the site to ensure the plant's safety.

So while everyone is looking towards the island of Kharg and the Strait of Hormuz, the real drama could be unfolding in Bushern.

### **9:15 AM**

“Israel is selling these attacks as a kind of AI-powered warfare. The way they murdered Ali Larijani had nothing to do with intelligent warfare. To locate him, they picked six or seven places and bombed them indiscriminately. To kill Ali Larijani, the Israeli terror regime killed more than 500 people. And they call this intelligent warfare.” ( [Source](#) )

### **10:15 AM:**

#### **Report in the Wall Street Journal about the aforementioned attack on Diego Garcia:**

Iran fired two medium-range ballistic missiles at the US-British military base "Diego Garcia" in the Indian Ocean, but missed, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing several US officials.

One of the missiles failed in flight, while a US warship fired an SM-3 interceptor missile at the other. It could not be determined whether the interception was successful, according to the WJS.

The journal did not specify when the rockets were launched.

US bombers, naval vessels, and British military vehicles are stationed on Diego Garcia. The island was considered untouchable, but Iran has proven that no base is beyond its reach.

#### **The Israeli military announces it is attacking Hezbollah targets in Beirut.**

Early Saturday morning, the Israeli military announced it was attacking Hezbollah targets in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. A military spokesman had previously urged residents of Beirut's southern suburbs to seek shelter from the attacks.

#### **International law and Israel's attacks on the civilian population and medical personnel in Lebanon**

A second Israeli airstrike on Deir al-Zahrani, near Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, deliberately targeted IHC medics who were arriving at the scene of the first attack. There were several casualties.

This pattern is not random, but reflects a recurring and deeply disturbing tactic in modern conflicts: double strikes are used to target first responders and maximize human harm beyond the initial explosion. This constitutes a war crime and a serious violation of international humanitarian law, which explicitly protects medical personnel and rescue teams.

Targeting those who are running towards their doom to save lives is not only militarily unjustifiable, but also morally indefensible and a sign of exhaustion and bankruptcy.

The Israeli strategy here is deterrence through terror, with the aim of paralyzing emergency response and exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population. [Source](#)

**10:30 AM:**

**The US Treasury Department has just “approved” the sale of Iranian crude oil for 30 days.**

The US ambassador to the UN is baffled: "We will temporarily allow this to some of our allies, such as India, Japan and others, so that Iran's strategy does not succeed."

Translation: Iran has blocked the strait. Prices have skyrocketed. Now the US is asking Tehran to sell oil to lower prices.



### **Britain gives the green light for the US to use its bases**

After being publicly criticized by Trump for not doing enough in his war against Iran, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer appears to have yielded to US pressure. Britain has now agreed to allow the US to use its RAF Fairford and Diego Garcia bases – a joint US-British base in the Indian Ocean – to strike Iranian missile sites targeting ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

In response, Iranian Foreign Minister [Abbas Araghchi published a warning on X](#) that Starmer was “endangering British lives by allowing the use of British bases for aggression against Iran”.

**November 1979-January 1981:** Iranian students — with the backing of Tehran — take 52 Americans hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

**April 1983:** A suicide car bombing kills 63 people, including 17 Americans, at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The Iran-backed terrorist group Islamic Jihad, a precursor and early branch of Hezbollah (not to be confused with Palestinian Islamic Jihad), claims responsibility.

**October 1983:** Operatives of the Iran-backed Hezbollah drive a truck beens at a Marine compound in Beirut, killing 230 U.S. Marines and 21 other service personnel.

**December 1983:** Hezbollah operatives drive an explosives-filled dump truck through the gates of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City. No Americans are harmed.

**March 1984:** Terrorists kidnap CIA station chief William Buckley in Beirut, subsequently torturing and ultimately killing him in 1985. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.

**December 1984:** Hezbollah terrorists hijack Kuwait Airways Flight 221 on its way from Kuwait to Pakistan and divert it to Tehran, killing two American officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**June 1985:** Hezbollah terrorists hijack TWA Flight 847 enroute from Athens to Rome and kill a U.S. Navy diver.

**July 1989:** Hezbollah operatives kill U.S. Marine Corps Col. William Higgins after kidnapping him the previous year while on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon.

- **November 1979:** Iranian students, backed by the regime, seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran — taking 60 Americans hostage in a [661-day standoff](#).
- **April 1983:** The Islamic Jihad, an Iran-backed terrorist group, carried out a suicide car bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 17 Americans.
- **October 1983:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists killed 241 U.S. military personnel — including 230 U.S. Marines and 21 other service personnel — in a truck bombing at a Marine compound in Beirut.
- **March 1984:** Iran-backed Islamic Jihad terrorists kidnapped CIA station chief William Buckley on his way to work in Beirut, ultimately killing him the following year.
- **September 1984:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists killed 23 innocent people — including two American service members — in a car bomb attack at the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut.
- **December 1984:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists hijacked Kuwait Airways Flight 221 en route to Pakistan, diverting it to Tehran — where they brutally tortured and killed two American officials.
- **June 1985:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists hijacked TWA Flight 847 on its way from Athens to Rome, torturing a U.S. Navy diver before shooting him point blank in the head and tossing his body onto the Beirut airport tarmac.
- **July 1989:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists killed U.S. Marine Col. William Higgins after kidnapping him the previous year while serving with a United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Trump's White House **blatantly plagiarized its arguments for attacking Iran** . Its manifesto of March 2, 2026, titled "The Iranian Regime's Decades of Terrorism Against American Citizens," boasts 44 carefully selected incidents in which a total of 992 US citizens were killed—figures taken in their entirety from a **research report by Tzvi Khan, published on June 19, 2025, by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)** .

The White House version adds a clear attribution, writing in some places "supported by Iran", while the FDD had spoken of "assumed responsibility".

A curious detail on the side: In the 2000s, Tucker Carlson's father was vice-chairman of the FDD.

**11:00 AM:**

**Iranian drones destroy new Kuwaiti and Italian Eurofighters at Ali Al-Salem airbase**

According to reports from various sources, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps **successfully disabled five Eurofighter jets at the Ali Al-Salem airbase in Kuwait** . The attack reportedly **destroyed three Kuwaiti Air Force Eurofighters and severely damaged two Italian Air Force Eurofighters** . This follows the confirmed destruction of an **Italian Air Force MQ-9 Reaper reconnaissance and attack drone** at the same facility, as well as attacks on **Italian ground troops at facilities in Iraq** by Iraqi paramilitary groups allied with Iran. These operations have highlighted Italy's often overlooked but [significant role](#) in supporting US-led operations against Western adversaries, a role disproportionate to the southern European nation's military strength and economic size.

The report confirms once again that the old European colonial powers cannot resist participating in imperialist and colonialist wars: **the UK, France, Germany, and Italy** are actively involved.