



News | Israel-Iran conflict

UN nuclear chief estimates damage to Iran's facilities 'very significant'

Watchdog IAEA calls for return to negotiations and warns of 'unimaginable' destruction as Tehran criticises IAEA chief for rhetoric it believes helped pave way for strikes and mulls exit from NPT.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi waits for an emergency meeting of the agency's Board of Governors to discuss the situation in Iran following the US attacks on the country's nuclear facilities, at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria, June 23, 2025 [Elisabeth Mandl/Reuters]

23 Jun 2025



The United Nations nuclear chief has estimated that military attacks by Israel and the United States have inflicted considerable damage to Iran's nuclear facilities.

Rafael Grossi on Monday told an emergency board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – the UN's nuclear watchdog – that craters caused by ground-penetrating US bombs were visible at [Fordow](#), the cornerstone of Iran's nuclear enrichment programme.

RECOMMENDED STORIES

['We'll end this war': Iran warns 'gambler' Trump as it hits back at Israel](#)

[Satellite images show damage from US strikes on Iran's Fordow nuclear site](#)

[How far will US strikes set back Iran's nuclear programme?](#)

Israel said as it launched the attacks on Iran on June 13 that Tehran was close to developing a nuclear weapon.

The US made the same claim as it entered the conflict directly on Saturday, striking Iran's three key nuclear facilities: Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan. US President Donald Trump claimed the strikes had "obliterated" the three sites.

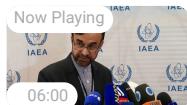
Grossi said while "no one, including the IAEA, is in a position to have fully assessed the underground damage at Fordow", it is expected to be "very significant".

That is because of "the explosive payload utilised and the extreme vibration-sensitive nature of centrifuges", Grossi added.

The IAEA chief also pointed out that the Natanz and Isfahan facilities were bombed by US warplanes and Tomahawk cruise missiles and damaged as well.

At Natanz, he said, the US hit a fuel enrichment plant. At Isfahan, it destroyed several buildings including some "related to the uranium conversion process", while the entrances to tunnels used to store enriched material were hit.

6:00



Iran's IAEA envoy says US strikes shattered NPT integrity and vows retaliation under UN Charter



'Iran's closure of Strait of Hormuz would cause global inflationary shock': Analysis



Iran must not develop a nuclear weapon: NATO chief Mark Rutte



Palestinians are suffering from famine as Gaza's humanitarian system collapses: NGO



Trump says US strikes caused 'monumental damage' at Iran nuclear sites

Sign up for Al Jazeera

Americas Coverage Newsletter

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

E-mail address

Subscribe

By signing up, you agree to our [Privacy Policy](#)



ALJAZEERA

BREAKING Qatar is home to al-Udeid Air Base, a major base for US forces

Israel-Iran conflict

A brief history of US-Iran relations What do satellite images of Fordow show? How Trump rejoined 'team' Netanyahu What is the Fordow nuclear facility?

▶ LIVE



ported another attack on Fordow.

Iran has continued to launch waves of missiles and drones against Israel and has [promised to retaliate against the US](#).

Tehran has also threatened to quit the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and lawmakers have backed an effort to suspend cooperation with the IAEA.

Iran has accused Grossi and the IAEA of [being complicit in the conflict](#), saying that its “biased” reporting on Iran’s nuclear activities was used as a “pretext” by Israel for its attack.

During the IAEA board meeting, Grossi again emphasised that “armed attacks on nuclear facilities should never take place”, but did not directly condemn Israel or the US for the attacks.

He called for Iran and the US to [return to the series of negotiations](#) that were cancelled by the Israeli strikes, warning that “violence and destruction could reach unimaginable levels” should the conflict persist.

He reiterated that IAEA inspectors must be admitted to assess the damage at the nuclear facilities. At this point, no rise in radiation has been reported.

“I’m ready to travel immediately to Iran. We need to keep working together despite existing differences,” Grossi said.

Iranian authorities have not indicated whether they would be open to extending an invitation for the watchdog chief to visit.

Former IAEA official Tariq Rauf told Al Jazeera that Iran’s short-term nuclear enrichment capacity has been damaged or destroyed, but that the country still has about 9,000kg (19,800 pounds) of enriched uranium – at levels between 2 and 60 percent – that is unaccounted for.

“At some point, the IAEA will need to go in and again make material balance to ensure that all the material is there,” Rauf said.

4:01

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

LISTEN TO THESE PODCASTS

From: The Inside Story Podcast

Can Israel thwart Iran's nuclear programme?

Israel has attacked Iranian military and nuclear sites, claiming Tehran was close to producing a nuclear weapon. Tehran sa...

From: The Inside Story Podcast

What are the implications of the US bombing Iran's major nuclear si...

Donald Trump says the US bombing attacks he ordered have totally obliterated Iran's key nuclear sites. And he's threatenin...

From: The Inside Story Podcast

What are the nuclear capabilities of Israel and Iran and the risks ...

Israel says ending Iran's nuclear programme is a key aim of its attacks on the country. Israel is widely believed to have ...

RELATED

From: NewsFeed

Netanyahu thanks Trump for 'historic' US strikes on Iran's nuclear sites

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has praised US President Donald Trump's decision to bomb three nuclear sites

22 Jun 2025



'Everlasting consequences': World reacts to US attacks on Iran

A roundup of reactions as US joins Israel's war and attacks three Iranian nuclear sites.

22 Jun 2025



From: Inside Story

What is the cost of the war between Israel and Iran?

Continuing strikes from both countries are draining their economies.

21 Jun 2025



From: Quotable

Netanyahu wants to fight Iran because "he can stay in office"

Benjamin Netanyahu wants war with Iran to stay in power, not peace with Palestinians, says Bill Clinton

21 Jun 2025



MORE FROM NEWS

Flares over Qatar's Doha, explosions heard, amid US-Israel-Iran conflict



Israel kills at least 43 Palestinians in Gaza, including aid seekers



US, Israeli strikes on Iran nuclear sites: How big are radiation risks?



UK to ban Palestine Action, police clash with group's supporters in London



MOST POPULAR

Explosions, flares over Qatar's capital amid threat of attack on US bases



Can Iran really shut down the Strait of Hormuz?



'We'll end this war': Iran warns 'gambler' Trump as it hits back at Israel



US bombs Iran: Are airlines stopping flights to Middle East?



About

[About Us](#)
[Code of Ethics](#)
[Terms and Conditions](#)

Connect

[Contact Us](#)
[User Accounts Help](#)
[Advertise with us](#)

Our Channels

[Al Jazeera Arabic](#)
[Al Jazeera English](#)

Our Network

[Al Jazeera Centre for Studies](#)
[Al Jazeera Media Institute](#)

Follow Al Jazeera English:



[EU/EEA Regulatory
Notice](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Cookie Preferences](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Work for us](#)

[Stay Connected](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Channel Finder](#)
[TV Schedule](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[Submit a Tip](#)

[Al Jazeera
Investigative Unit](#)
[Al Jazeera Mubasher](#)
[Al Jazeera
Documentary](#)
[Al Jazeera Balkans](#)
[AJ+](#)

[Learn Arabic](#)
[Al Jazeera Centre for
Public Liberties &
Human Rights](#)
[Al Jazeera Forum](#)
[Al Jazeera Hotel
Partners](#)



© 2025 Al Jazeera Media Network