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Jun 24, 2025 · 22 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1937464000851378338](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll explore how Russia is working with Iran, and how the recent Israel–US strikes on Iran could affect the war in Ukraine. Iran has been one of Russia's key allies in their genocidal war, but in reality the partnership is deeply one-sided.

1/21



Historically, Russia/USSR has been involved in numerous wars in the Middle East, invading Afghanistan for nearly a decade and desperately trying to keep Syria's authoritarian leader, al-Assad, in power before his eventual downfall.

2/21



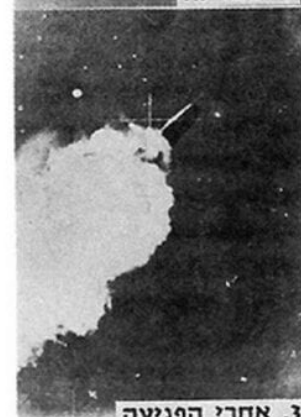
While initially supportive of Israel, the Soviet Union quickly pivoted to backing its enemies, fueling antisemitism, terrorism, and chaos in an already tense region. At times, this meant near-open war, like when Soviet Air Force MiG-21s were shot down by Israel over Egypt.



1. לפני הפגיעה



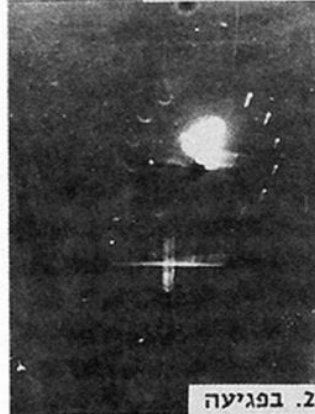
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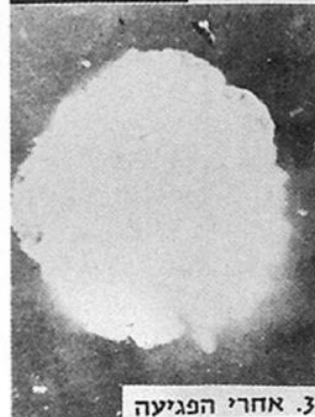
3. אחרי הפגיעה



1. לפני הפגיעה



2. בפגיעה



3. אחרי הפגיעה



לפני הפגיעה



בפגיעה



אחרי הפגיעה



Never Ask A Woman
Her Age



A Man
His Salary



Russia
what the USSR
did in Egypt
in 1969-1970

Israel's relationship with Russia has also been ambiguous. Netanyahu has maintained friendly ties with Putin, Israel has warned Russia ahead of strikes on its allies in Syria, and it has refused to support a UN resolution condemning Russia's war and kidnapping of children.



Voting Started			2/24/2025	11:35:10 AM
Item 5 - A/ES-11/L.10				
Advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine				
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ALGERIA	CENTRAL AF...	GABON	LAO PDR	NEW ZEALAND
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				VIET NAM
				YEMEN
				ZAMBIA
				ZIMBABWE
IN FAVOUR: 93		AGAINST: 18		ABSTENTION: 65

In Syria, Russia became infamous for its brutal tactics against civilians. The Russia-Assad bombing campaigns drove the 2015 migrant crisis—pushing over a million refugees into Europe. Later, Russia fueled the crisis further by weaponizing migration routes.

WORLD Middle East War In Ukraine Africa Americas Asia Europe

Russia and Syria conducted dozens of illegal ‘double tap’ strikes, report says



By Claire Parker

July 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EDT



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Russia has also cozied up to terrorist groups in the region, including both Hamas and Hezbollah. Russian officials have met with (former) Hamas leaders on several occasions and sent a high-level delegation to meet them in 2023 after the Oct 7 Hamas terrorist attack.

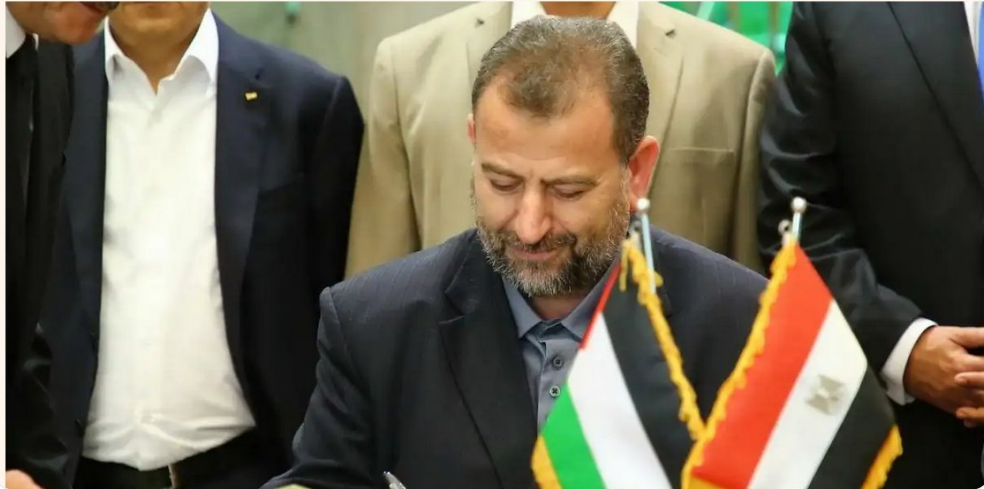


ASIA & AMERICAS, CHINA, EUROPE & RUSSIA, ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST, NEWS, PALESTINE, RUSSIA, UKRAINE, US

Hamas sent high-level delegation to Moscow at Russia's invitation



March 16, 2023 at 4:04 pm



Russia cites ‘concern’ but does not condemn Hamas attack on Israel



By [Francesca Ebel](#)

October 9, 2023 at 4:38 p.m. EDT



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, right, shakes hands with Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit during a meeting in Moscow on Monday. (Sergei Ilnitsky/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

Russia refuses to label Hezbollah a terrorist organization, instead calling it a “legitimate socio-political force.” Hezbollah even fought alongside Assad’s and Russian troops in Syria. In 2018, they collaborated to smuggle oil and bypass sanctions imposed on Syria.

EMERGING MARKETS NOVEMBER 15, 2015 / 9:20 PM / UPDATED 8 YEARS AGO

Russia says Hezbollah not a terrorist group: Ifax

By Reuters Staff

2 MIN READ



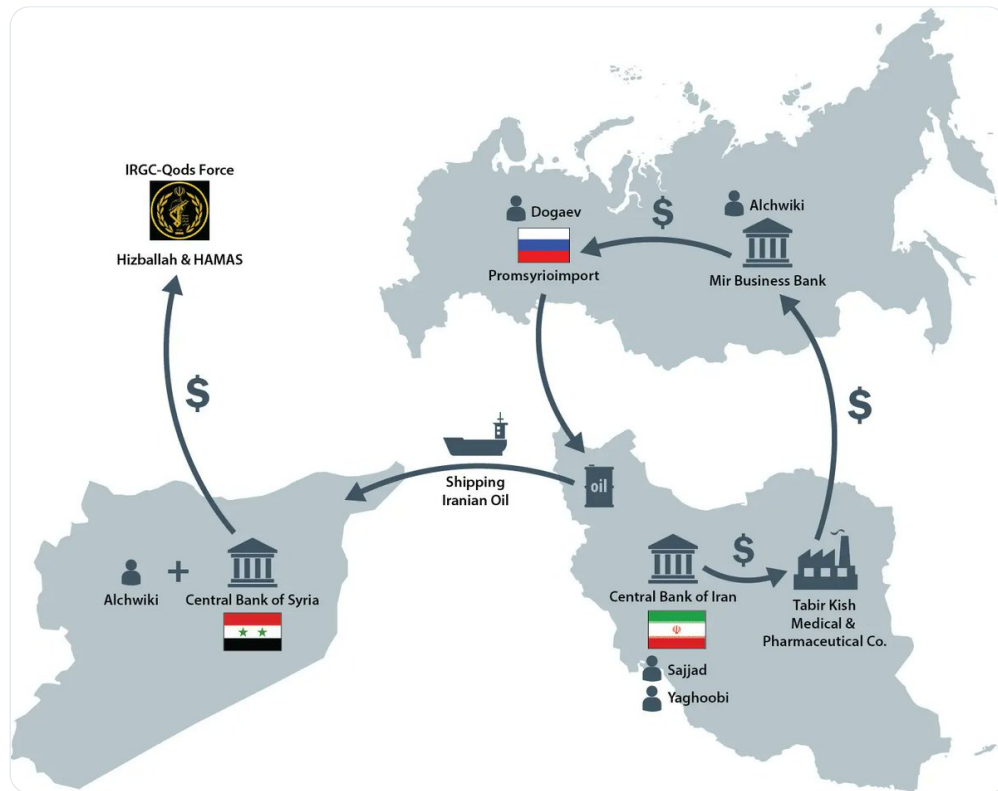
Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah addresses his supporters via a giant screen during a rally marking Hezbollah's Martyr's Day in Beirut's suburbs, Lebanon November 11, 2015. REUTERS/Aziz Taher

COMMENTARY

Hizballah and Russia's Nascent Alliance

Aurora Ortega and Dr Matthew Levitt
23 May 2023 ⌚ 10 Minute Read

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Sanctions Evasion

Russia's alliance with Hizbullah was born out of the conflict in Syria, where Russian and Hizbullah forces fought side-by-side in alliance with the Assad regime. For years, this alliance appeared strictly limited to military activity in Syria, but in 2018, Hizbullah and Russia began to engage in unprecedented joint sanctions evasion activities. The stark change in activity between Hizbullah and Russia clearly demonstrated that their cooperation had moved beyond a military alliance and now carried an economic component. In November 2018, the US Department of the Treasury exposed a convoluted trade-based oil smuggling sanctions evasion scheme directed by Hizbullah and the Qods Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This scheme allowed the Iranian regime to remit money to Russia's state-owned Promsyrioimport on behalf of Syria, enabling Russia to evade US sanctions against the Assad regime. Simultaneously, the Syrian Central Bank remitted cash to Hizbullah, HAMAS and the IRGC-Qods Force on behalf of the Iranian regime. Central to this scheme were two key conduits: Hizbullah official Mohamed Qasir and Russia-based Syrian national Mohamed Alchwiki. In a letter to a senior official at the Central Bank of Iran, Qasir (aka Mr Fadi) and Alchwiki confirmed receipt of \$63 million as part of a scheme to benefit Hizbullah.

Of course, Russia's fellow state-sponsor of terrorism Iran is also closely tied to all these countries and groups. According to US officials, Iran paid Hezbollah around \$700 million annually. Hezbollah has also been linked to cigarette and drug smuggling in the region.



Iran pays Hezbollah \$700 million a year, US official says

► Praise for co-operation between the UAE and US in breaking up IRGC funding networks





HEZBOLLAH'S GLOBAL NETWORKS AND LATIN AMERICAN COCAINE TRADE

El Centro

Tue, 04/25/2023 - 8:20pm

Hezbollah's Global Networks and Latin American Cocaine Trade

Mahmut Cengiz and Camilo Pardo-Herrera

Hezbollah is a globally-networked organization that has been involved in various political, criminal, and terrorist activities for nearly 40 years. The variety of its activities and functions makes it a complex case, creating debates on how the organization can be labeled, whether it is a surrogate organization of Iran in the conflict zones, a terrorist organization targeting predominantly Jews, a smuggling group dominating global cigarette smuggling networks, a money laundering group, or a drug trafficking organization involved in the worldwide cocaine trade.[1] Heavily influenced by the Iranian regime, the group has spread its influence in the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States. After detailing its origins, financial resources, and global activities, this article focuses explicitly on how Hezbollah is involved in cocaine trade from Latin America.[2]

Iran-Russia relations go way back. The Soviet Union was the first state to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979. In 1989, Iran signed an arms deal with the USSR, and cooperation continued after its collapse.



ARMS CONTROL TODAY

Michael Eisenstadt

In the past decade, Russia has become Iran's main source of advanced conventional arms, an alleged supplier of know-how and technology for its ballistic missile and chemical and biological warfare programs, and its sole source of civilian nuclear technology. Despite sustained U.S. efforts to halt these transfers, they continue, raising unsettling questions about Moscow's intentions, the depth of its commitment to arms control, and the future of U.S.-Russian relations. How the United States deals with this challenge could have far-reaching implications for the stability of the Middle East and the fate of the international non-proliferation regime.

Iran has been seeking to enhance its military capabilities for more than a decade now, in an attempt to increase self-reliance, strengthen deterrence, and achieve the status and influence that it believes is its due. Self-reliance in all areas of national life—but particularly in the military sphere—is a fundamental tenet of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. Thus, Iran has built up its military-industrial base to reduce its reliance on foreign arms suppliers and increase its military potential. Iran also wants to be able to deter potential threats from Iraq, the United States, Israel, and, more recently, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan. Finally, Tehran's efforts to modernize its armed forces and acquire weapons of mass destruction are driven by a desire to bridge the gap between its military weakness and its image of itself as a regional power and the standard bearer of revolutionary Islam. To these ends, Tehran has turned to Russia—the only country that can provide it with arms in the quantity and the quality that it desires.

The security relationship forged by Russia and Iran over the past decade is something of an historical anomaly—the two nations have traditionally viewed each other with suspicion. In the 19th century, imperial Russia dominated Persia, annexing territories that had historically belonged to the Persian empire, and with Great Britain conspired to divide the country into spheres of influence. Soviet policy, though generally cautious, was

In May 2007, Iran was invited to join the CSTO, a Russia-led alliance intended to counter NATO, though it ultimately declined. In 2015, Putin lifted a ban on weapons sales to Iran, and Russia delivered several S-300 missile systems.



REGION

A+

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Russian official: CSTO membership open for Iran

11 December 2024 10:58

The question of Iran's potential membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) should be discussed, as it is "not a closed club," said chairman of the State Duma's (Parliament) Defence Committee Andrei Kartapolov.

April 13, 2015 13:08 GMT
UPDATED April 13, 2015
15:30 GMT
By RFE/RL

Putin Lifts Ban On Supplies Of S-300 Missiles To Iran

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S-300 surface-to-air missile systems are deployed in a military exercise by the Baltic Fleet of the Russian Navy in the Kaliningrad region in January.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree lifting the country's ban on deliveries of high precision S-300 missile systems to Iran, in a move that drew criticism from the United States and Israel.

Related

Russia, Iran Sign Military

Russia Completes S-300 Delivery to Iran

ARMS CONTROL TODAY

December 2016

By April Brady

Russia completed delivery of the S-300 air defense missile system to Iran last month, concluding an \$800 million deal signed between the two states in 2007, state-run Russian press agency RIA Novosti reported. The S-300 mobile surface-to-air missile system can counter multiple aircraft at a range of 195 kilometers and ballistic missiles at a range of up to 50 kilometers.

In September 2010, following pressure from the United States and Israel, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev suspended the agreement in compliance with a stricter UN arms embargo passed in June of that year. ([See ACT, October 2010.](#))

Iran protested the decision, filing a \$4 billion lawsuit against Russia's defense export agency and embarking on the manufacture of its own long-range, mobile air defense system, the Bavar-373, which President Hassan Rouhani unveiled in August.

After Iran and the six-country group known as the P5+1 agreed on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to constrain and roll back Iran's nuclear program in July 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin lifted the ban on weapons sales to Iran and signed a new agreement with Tehran, sending the



An Iranian military truck carries parts of the S300 missile system during

The two countries later agreed on a \$10 billion deal covering helicopters, planes, and artillery. In 2022, a Russian delegation visited Iran to observe the Shahed drones being produced there. Initially, Iran downplayed the transfers, claiming neutrality...

11/21

Russia Completes S-300 Delivery to Iran

ARMS CONTROL TODAY

December 2016

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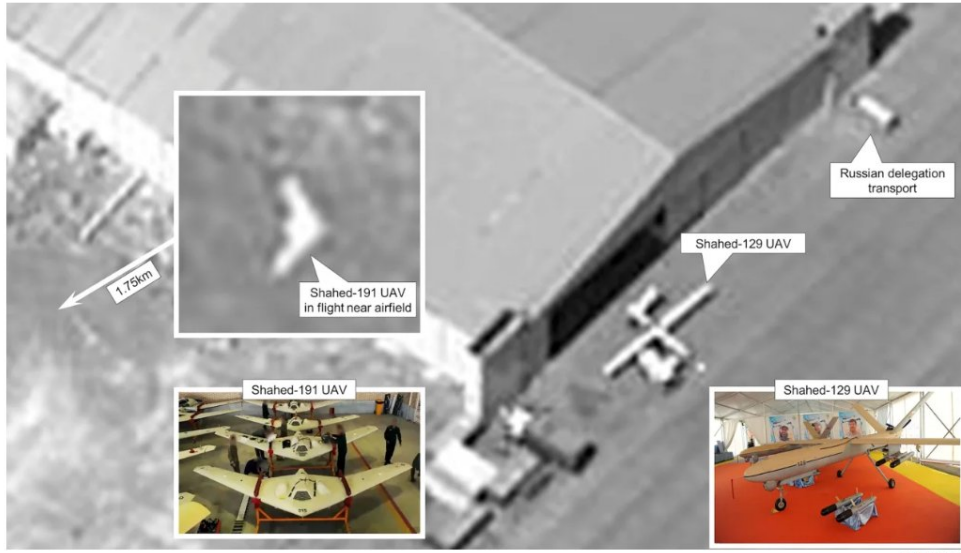
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An Iranian military truck carries parts of the S300 missile system during

Exclusive: Russians have visited Iran at least twice in last month to examine weapons-capable drones

By [Natasha Bertrand](#), CNN
 Published 10:02 PM EDT, Fri July 15, 2022



US Government

A Russian delegation has visited an airfield in central Iran at least twice in the last month to examine weapons-capable drones, according to national security adviser Jake Sullivan and satellite imagery obtained exclusively by CNN.

Jerusalem Post > World News

Iran tries to downplay potential drone transfers to Russia - analysis

The Kremlin said that the drones would not be discussed when Putin visits Iran next week • Iranian FM: we won't help either side in this war because it should be stopped

By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

JULY 16, 2022 01:30 **Updated:** JULY 16, 2022 13:00



Iranian armed forces members march during a ceremony of the National Army Day parade in Tehran, Iran April 18, 2022
(photo credit: WANA NEWS AGENCY/REUTERS)

...but eventually provided Russia with the technology to produce Shahed drones domestically. These are now a staple of Russia's terror bombing campaigns against Ukrainian civilians.



Israel-Hamas war

Diamondbacks beat Dodgers

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Ukraine's military claims downing Iran drone used by Russia



1 of 2 | This undated photograph released by the Ukrainian military's Strategic Communications Directorate shows the wreckage of what Kyiv has described as an Iranian Shahed drone downed near Kupiansk, Ukraine. Ukraine's military claimed Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, for the first time that it encountered an Iranian-supplied suicide drone used by Russia on [Twitter](#). [Read More](#)



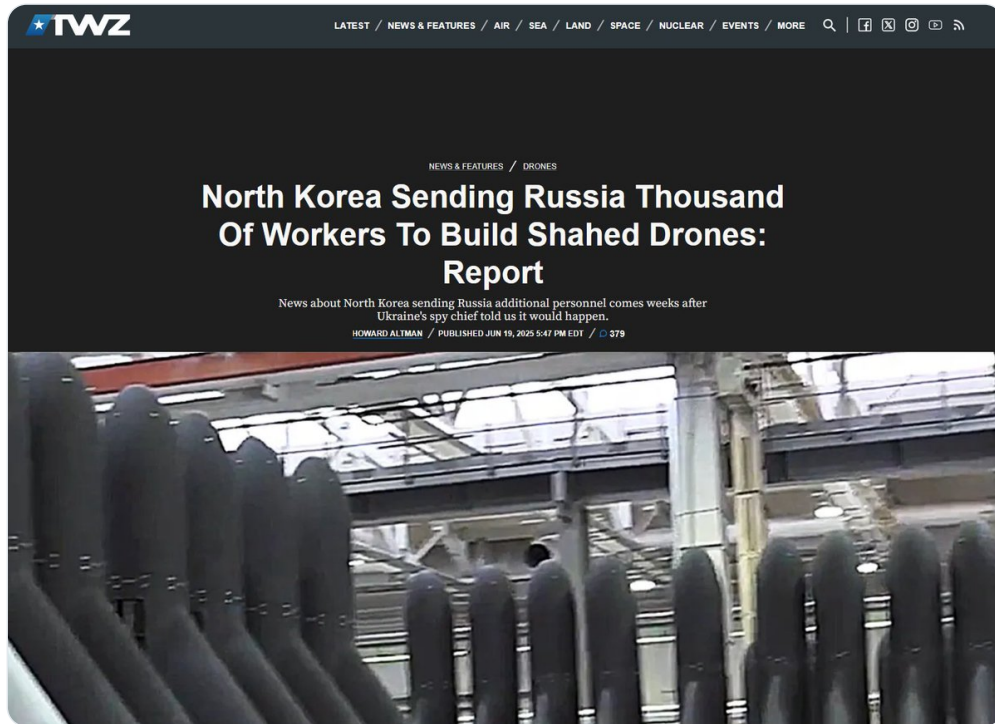
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Iran and Russia plan to build UAVs factory in Tatarstan

[Education](#) [#tagline](#) [#hashtag](#) [#tagline](#) [#tagline](#)**Vadim Koshnikov**
February 5, 2023 23:32



Russia reports Ukrainian drone attack on drone factory in Tatarstan

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by Dominic Culverwell • June 15, 2025 7:22 PM • 2 min read



Smoke after Ukrainian drones were allegedly downed in Yelabuga in Russia's Tatarstan region. June 15, 2025. (Meduza/Telegram)

Today, Russia produces ~90% of its Shahed drones domestically and relies less on Iran. Production has scaled rapidly—by spring 2025, over 10,000 had been deployed. By June, the

total launched was projected to hit 20,000, making them a core tool in Russia's arsenal.





13/21

THE KYIV INDEPENDENT
Tuesday, June 24, 2025


ar Business Opinion Eastern Europe Video Culture Investigations War Crimes Dare to Ukraine Explaining Ukraine

WAR ANALYSIS, DRONES, IRANIAN DRONES, RUSSIA, UKRAINE, WAR, HUR, AIR DEFENSE

Exclusive: Ukraine could face 500+ Russian drones a night as Kremlin builds new launch sites

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by Kollen Post • June 4, 2025 4:42 PM • 4 min read



In addition to Shaheds, Iran has reportedly supplied Russia with short-range ballistic missiles—broadening their military cooperation. Yet Russia hasn't sent any military aid to Iran, making the partnership decidedly one-sided.

14/21

 U.S. Department of Defense LIVE TODAY News Multimedia Spotlights A

Iran Gives Russia Short-Range Missiles, While U.S., Partners Expect to Keep Bolstering Ukrainian Air Defense

Sept. 10, 2024 | By [C. Todd Lopez](#), DOD News |   

The United States has confirmed that Iran has given a number of close-range ballistic missiles to Russia. But a U.S. official said from the beginning of the Russian invasion, support to Ukraine has focused on air defense, and that this will continue — including with a focus on the threat posed by the new missiles.

"The United States has confirmed reports that Iran has transferred shipments of Fath 360 close-range ballistic missiles to Russia, which we assess could employ them within weeks against Ukraine, leading to the deaths of even more Ukrainian civilians," said Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder during a briefing today. He added that right now, the department can't say how many missiles are involved.

Still, in Jan 2025, the two countries signed a 20-year strategic partnership covering trade, energy, intelligence, and advanced tech. While it stops short of a formal military alliance, the

scope is broad — though it may exist mostly on paper.

15/21



After being cut off from SWIFT, Iran and Russia linked their banking systems (SEPAM & SPFS) to enable direct rial–ruble trade. This bypasses Western sanctions, allowing 700+ Russian and 100+ foreign banks to transact — forming a new financial lifeline outside US control.

16/21

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Official: Iran, Russia left SWIFT system

By IFP Media Wire January 9, 2024



Tehran and Moscow have officially switched from the West's SWIFT financial clearing system to a direct interbank transfer mechanism, the deputy head of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has stated.

Latest article

IRGC chief warns any further aggression met with stronger regretful response
June 24, 2025

Iranian defense and Russian counterforce will punish aggression
June 24, 2025

Iran's top security statement on missile US base
June 24, 2025

Iran's armed forces missile strike on base in Qatar
June 23, 2025

US assault gives forces 'free hand' retaliatory action
June 23, 2025

IMF chief sees threat to economies from
June 23, 2025

Russia and Iran are also expanding cooperation in energy, nuclear tech, and cybersecurity. Rosatom supports Iran's civilian nuclear program, while both sides pursue gas swap deals and joint cyber defense — reinforcing infrastructure beyond Western reach.

PARTNER CONTENT BNE INTELLIGENCE

Iran Seeks To Expand Nuclear Power Cooperation With Russia's Rosatom


Jan. 20, 2025



Vladimir Putin and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (C front) are seen during a meeting at the Moscow Kremlin.

Gavril Grigorov / POOL / TASS

On paper, the Iran-Russia partnership looks strategic. In reality, it's deeply asymmetrical. Russia gains drones, missiles, new technology and a sanctions-proof trade network — all extremely vital for its war on Ukraine.




Iran Insight
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How Iran's drones supercharged Russia's 1,000-day fight in Ukraine


Nov 19, 2024, 20:37 GMT Updated 9:37 PM

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Several Iranian Shahed drones

As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine hits the 1,000-day mark and North Korean troops take to the field to support the campaign, Iran International revisits the key role Iranian drones have played in the Russian war effort.



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Why Russia hesitates to help Iran in conflict with Israel

Sergei Satanovskii
06/17/2025

Russia and Iran have long been economic and strategic partners. But despite a new defense pact, the Kremlin is unlikely to offer military aid to Iran in the conflict with Israel.

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Despite the Kremlin's newly minted defense pact with Iran, Russia is unlikely to directly assist the Islamic Republic in the conflict with Israel. Image: IMAGO/INA

Meanwhile, Iran gets repeatedly pummeled by the US and Israel, and receives no military backing in return. Moscow offers strongly-worded letters and condemnation, but no defense systems, no weapons and absolutely no guarantees.

Israel strikes Tehran nuclear site, destroys missile launchers and kills Iranian commander

3d • ⓘ 1 min read

Pakistan, June 20 -- TEHRAN - The Israeli military has claimed responsibility for a major overnight airstrike targeting Iranian military installations and a nuclear research center in Tehran. According to the statement, more than 60 fighter jets launched over 120 bombs and missiles during the operation.

The airstrikes reportedly targeted multiple missile production factories in Tehran, which Israel says operate under Iran's Ministry of Defense. These facilities were allegedly manufacturing missile parts and processing raw materials used in missile engine production.

In a significant move, the Israeli Air Force also struck the headquarters of the SPND nuclear program - a site previously targeted in the ongoing conflict. Israel claims SPND is a central hub for developing advanced weapons and technology, established by Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the alleged founder of Iran's nuclear weapons program.

The New York Times

Israel-Iran Conflict | **LIVE** Updates 21m ago | Fragile Cease-Fire | What to Know | U.S. Involvement | Maps | Timeline

Israeli Attacks in Iran Kill Three More Commanders, Israel Says

The claims by the Israeli military came as aircraft tracker data indicated American B-2 bombers might be moving into position for joining the assault on Iran.

Russia also benefits from the world's attention shifting from Ukraine to the Middle East. While the Israel-US coalition targets Iran's military sites, Russia continues terror bombing civilians — largely unnoticed by media. Just the way they prefer it.

Death toll rises after Russia's deadliest attack on Kyiv for months

6 days ago

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Joel Gunter **Jessica Rawnsley**
BBC News, Kyiv BBC News, London



Russian drone strikes Kyiv tower block and other sites in capital hit overnight

Ukrainian emergency services have continued to recover bodies from under rubble in Kyiv after Russia hit the city with a huge missile and drone attack overnight into Tuesday.

In desperation, Iran's parliament even voted to consider closing the Strait of Hormuz — a move that would hurt Iran, but also the EU, which relies on oil flowing through it. A major price hike would only benefit one country: Russia.

CNBC

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Iran’s parliament backs blocking Strait of Hormuz. Its closure would alienate Tehran further

PUBLISHED MON, JUN 23 2025-2:39 AM EDT | UPDATED MON, JUN 23 2025-7:14 PM EDT



Lim Hui Jie
@IN/HUI-JIE-LIM-A7371176/

KEY POINTS

- Should Iran follow through on its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, it could alienate its neighbors and trade partners.
- But the possibility of a closure of the strait is low, experts said, despite Tehran's rhetoric around closing the strait.
- A closure would provoke Iran's markets in Asia, particularly China, which accounts for a majority of Iranian oil exports.

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What’s at stake for Europe if the Strait of Hormuz is blocked?



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By [Jeremy Fleming-Jones](#)
Published on 22/06/2025 - 16:44 GMT+2 • Updated 16:49

The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



The Book | Vatrik Soup

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