

United Nations Security Council

Crossroads of Fire: U.S. Involvement in the Escalating Israel–Iran Conflict








1. History of the Committee

In the start of the Security Council, the Cold War almost completely made it unusable as both the US and USSR frequently used vetoes against each other. So the Security Council's usefulness was completely delayed. However, The Security Council was still able to go forward with peacekeeping missions throughout Congo, Cyprus, and more conflicted zones.

Afterwards, the UNSC was able to mediate throughout the 60s to the present day. In 1967, Resolution 242 made Israel withdraw from occupied territory after the Six Day war. In 1973, Resolution 338 urged a ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War. Resolution 1701 was the first step in trying to stop the Israel and Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon, it was only partially successful; it effectively ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah and provided a period of relative calm for almost two decades, but key clauses such as the disarmament of Hezbollah and the full deployment of the Lebanese army were never implemented, leading to continued instability and a recent escalation of conflict.

Over the following decades, the way of solving of the Security Council has shifted from symbolic condemnations to more practical ways like sanctions and peacekeeping deployments.

History of the Committee

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1945 |  | UNSC created as cornerstone of collective security |
| 1960 |  | Peacekeeping mission in the Congo |
| 1967 |  | Resolution 242 on Israeli withdrawal after Six-Day War |
| 1973 |  | Resolution 338 calling for ceasefire in Yom Kippur War |
| 2006 |  | Resolution 1701 ending Israeli-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon |
| 2006 |  | Sanctions imposed on Iran over nuclear program |
| 2015 |  | Resolution 2231 endorsing Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA) |

2. Committee Background

The UN security council was founded in 1945 after the San Francisco Conference and the adoption of the UN Charter. Its main purpose has been to maintain international peace and security since its start. The Council is made up of 5 permanent members, The US, UK, France, Russia, and China, and 10 members that are elected every 2 years. The permanent members hold the veto power, their disagreement can terminate any resolution.

The Council has the power to sanction countries, make peacekeeping missions, and deploy military force to mediate conflicts. The Security council has been vital to solve disputes worldwide. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of the Council hasn't been at its maximum because of the use of the veto. In the Iran-Israel conflict, the Council has the upper hand in imposing international sanctions and in a way of saying it, force peace negotiations unto these countries.

1. Introduction

The Israel–Iran conflict has evolved into one of the most dangerous conflicts in the Middle East, threatening global peace and security regarding energy. The center of the conflict is Iran's rejection of Israel's legitimacy, Israel's fears of Iran having nuclear weapons, and decades of having multiple proxy wars across Lebanon, Syria, and other pieces of nearby territories. US involvement has complicated the picture as Washington maintains an immovable partnership with Israel while at the same time trying to prevent Iran from expanding its influence.

Today, the stakes are higher than ever. Nuclear weapons, changing alliances, and proxy wars mean that everything could go off and affect countries beyond the region. The UNSC still stands at the center of global expectations for de-escalation even if countries are non responsive and uncooperative.

2. Historical Context



Relations between Israel and Iran were not always violent. Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran recognized Israel and maintained respectful ties. But unfortunately, the Revolution transformed Iran's foreign policy, positioning itself as the leader of anti-Zionist resistance. Diplomatic ties with

Israel were cut, and Tehran began supporting groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

Israel became alarmed by Iran's nuclear ambitions, especially after revelations in the early 2000 of secret enrichment facilities. Regional conflicts intensified the rivalry. During the Lebanese Civil War, Hezbollah emerged as a powerful Iranian militia, while the Syrian Civil War saw Iranian forces and Israeli airstrikes clashing indirectly.



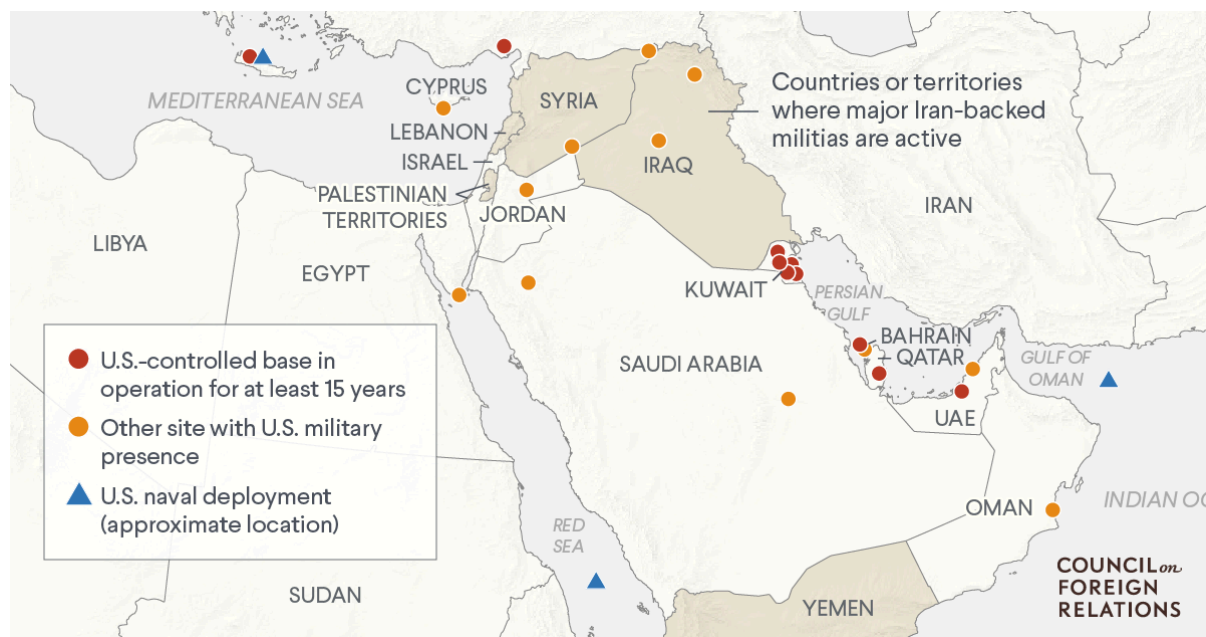
The 2015 JCPOA briefly reduced tensions, but the U.S. withdrawal under the Trump administration in 2018 reignited fears of escalation. Since then, Israel has conducted covert operations and cyberattacks on Iran's nuclear program, while Iran has expanded its uranium enrichment closer to weapon grade levels.

3. Current Issue

As of this year, the conflict has escalated across multiple fronts. Military tensions remain, with Israeli airstrikes continuing to target Iranian positions in Syria, while Iran has tested drones and ballistic missiles capable of reaching Israel. Cyber warfare between the two countries has also intensified, adding another layer to the confrontation. Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear program has advanced significantly, with uranium enrichment passing 60%, it has raised fears that the

country could soon cross the nuclear weapon threshold. Inspections by the IAEA remain limited, further fueling international concern.

The United States continues to play a major role, with around 30,000 troops stationed across the Middle East, including bases in Qatar, Bahrain, and Iraq. Washington also provides Israel with advanced defense systems, such as the Iron Dome and F-35 fighter jets. On the regional stage, alliances are hardening: Israel has drawn closer to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, while Iran maintains strong backing from Russia and China.



Amid these geopolitical shifts, civilians in Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria continue to suffer the heaviest consequences of the conflict. Proxy wars have led to widespread displacement, the destruction of infrastructure, and severe human rights abuses on both sides, deepening the humanitarian crisis in the region.

4. Past International Actions

The UNSC has passed multiple resolutions shaping the conflict:

- Resolution 242 (1967): “Land for peace” after Six-Day War.
- Resolution 338 (1973): Ceasefire in Yom Kippur War.

- Resolution 1701 (2006): Ceasefire in Lebanon war.
- Resolutions 1737–1929 (2006–2010): Sanctions on Iran’s nuclear program.
- Resolution 2231 (2015): Endorsed JCPOA.

Other international efforts include U.S. led diplomacy, EU mediation in nuclear talks, Arab League calls for regional solutions, and UNIFIL peacekeeping in Lebanon.

Table: Key UNSC Resolutions on Middle East Conflicts

| Resolution | Year | Focus | Outcome |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 242 | 1967 | Arab–Israeli conflict | Basis for peace framework |
| 338 | 1973 | Ceasefire in Yom Kippur War | Reinforced 242 |
| 1701 | 2006 | Lebanon ceasefire | UNIFIL deployed |
| 1737–1929 | 2006-2010 | Iran nuclear sanctions | Restricted Iran’s nuclear program |
| 2231 | 2015 | Endorsed JCPOA | Lifted sanctions, collapsed after U.S. withdrawal |

5. Subtopics

- **Nuclear Proliferation** Should Iran’s enrichment program be accepted under safeguards, or prevented entirely? Should Israel face pressure regarding its undeclared nuclear arsenal?
- **Proxy Conflicts** From Hezbollah in Lebanon to militias in Syria and Yemen, how should the UNSC address Iran’s regional footprint and Israel’s responses?

- **U.S. Foreign Policy** Is US intervention stabilizing or inflaming the conflict? Should its role be restrained, redirected, or legitimized through UNSC approval?
- **Regional Alliances** How do shifting alliances (Israel–Saudi–U.S. vs. Iran–Russia–China) affect UNSC negotiations?
- **Humanitarian Impacts** Civilians suffer most in proxy wars. Should UNSC prioritize humanitarian corridors, ceasefires, or reconstruction?
- **International Law** Do Israeli strikes on Iranian targets violate sovereignty? Does Iran’s support for armed groups breach UN norms?

6. *Positions*

These are some brief positions of vital countries in this debate’s topic.

Permanent Members:

- **United States:** Firmly supports Israel, opposes Iran, often blocks UNSC measures seen as anti-Israel.
- **Russia:** Defends Iran, opposes U.S. interventions, uses veto to block sanctions.
- **China:** Prioritizes economic ties with Iran, resists sanctions, favors dialogue.
- **France & UK:** Balance support for Israel’s security with EU preference for nuclear diplomacy and JCPOA revival.

Other Key Positions:

- **Israel:** Focused on preventing Iran’s nuclear weapon, supports preemptive action.
- **Iran:** Seeks recognition of its nuclear rights, rejects Israel’s legitimacy.
- **Saudi Arabia & Gulf States:** Align more openly with Israel, oppose Iran.
- **Turkey:** Plays mediator role, maintains ties with both sides.
- **Egypt:** Mediates in Gaza, opposes Iran’s influence.
- **EU:** Seeks to mediate and preserve JCPOA.

7. Guiding Questions

- What role should the UNSC play in de-escalating the Israel–Iran conflict?
- How can veto power be overcome to pass effective resolutions?
- Should U.S. intervention be reduced, redirected, or legitimized through UNSC?
- Can a revival of JCPOA realistically reduce tensions?
- How does the conflict affect global oil and trade routes?
- Should peacekeeping be deployed, and where?
- How can proxy groups like Hezbollah be addressed within international law?
- Should Israel’s undeclared nuclear arsenal be part of the discussion?
- What humanitarian measures should be prioritized?
- How can regional actors (Turkey, Egypt, Gulf States) be included in UNSC solutions?

8. Suggested Sources

- UN Security Council Resolutions Database ([UN.org](https://www.un.org/Security-Council-Resolutions-Database))
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports
- “Iran and the Bomb: Nuclear Club or WMD-Free Zone?” — Carnegie Endowment
- Council on Foreign Relations reports on U.S. Middle East policy
- Chatham House studies on Gulf–Iran rivalry
- International Crisis Group reports on Hezbollah and Syria
- Brookings Institution analyses on U.S.–Israel defense ties
- Al Jazeera, BBC, and Reuters (regional and international perspectives)
- The Jerusalem Post and Tehran Times (domestic perspectives)
- SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) arms data

Bibliography

Council on Foreign Relations. (2023). *U.S. policy toward Israel and Iran*. CFR.
<https://www.cfr.org/report/us-policy-toward-iran>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2024). *Safeguards report on Iran*. IAEA.
<https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/25/06/gov2025-38.pdf>

Katzman, K. (2023). *Iran's foreign and defense policies*. Congressional Research Service.
<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R44017>

United Nations Security Council. (2015). *Resolution 2231 (JCPOA)*.
<https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/background>

International Crisis Group. (2022). *The Iran–Israel shadow war in Syria*. ICG.
<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/gulf-and-arabian-peninsula/iran-israelpalestine/iran-israel-shadow-war>

SIPRI. (2024). *Arms transfers database*. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2025/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-international-arms-transfers-2024>

BBC News. (2024). *Israel–Iran conflict timeline*. BBC.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdj9vj8gglg2o>