

Embassy of Israel Newsletter



Welcome to the Embassy of Israel Newsletter: your window into the vibrant ties between Israel and Australia.

At a time of heightened regional complexity, including the USA's and Israel's ongoing military operations, we believe it is more important than ever to ensure access to accurate information and informed context on the issues shaping the current agenda.

In this first edition, we are sending general points regarding **Operation "Roaring Lion"**. We also take this opportunity to formally introduce the new **Ambassador of Israel to Australia, Dr. Hillel Newman**, who assumed his role in February 2026. Ambassador Newman brings with him extensive diplomatic experience and is committed to strengthening engagement, deepening understanding, and maintaining open and constructive dialogue with partners and stakeholders across Australia.

OPERATION “ROARING LION”

The United States of America, together with Israel, has launched a military operation termed “Roaring Lion” (or “Epic Fury”) in the context of the ongoing confrontation with the Iranian regime. This is a joint operation undertaken in response to escalating and imminent threats. This is a joint operation. For further context, watch this video, which explains why intervention was necessary for the sake of the free world [here](#).

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATION

The primary objective is to permanently remove existential threats emanating from Iran. This includes neutralizing its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities and creating conditions that may enable the Iranian people to determine their own future, free from a regime committed to Israel’s destruction.

RATIONALE

Iran’s advancing nuclear and ballistic missile programs posed an imminent and existential threat. While any military action carries risks, the risks of inaction were assessed to be far greater. Without intervention, Iran was expected to reach a point of operational “immunity,” embedding its capabilities deep underground while continuing to expand its support for terrorist proxies.

EXISTENTIAL THREATS AND URGENCY

The Iranian regime has sought to rapidly reconstitute and expand its nuclear program while accelerating ballistic missile production, with both systems being fortified underground to prevent neutralization. This development created a time-sensitive and imminent threat environment, necessitating urgent action before these capabilities could be fully secured.

TARGETS AND CONDUCT OF THE OPERATION

The operation is directed exclusively at military objectives, including nuclear facilities, missile infrastructure, and elements of Iran’s military industry. It does not target civilian populations. Its purpose is to significantly degrade the regime’s capacity to threaten Israel and the broader international community.

TARGETS AND CONDUCT OF THE OPERATION

The operation is directed exclusively at military objectives, including nuclear facilities, missile infrastructure, and elements of Iran’s military industry. It does not target civilian populations. Its purpose is to significantly degrade the regime’s capacity to threaten Israel and the broader international community.



Embassy of Israel
CANBERRA

OPERATION “ROARING LION”

TIMEFRAME

The operation is intended to be as short as possible while achieving its objectives. At the same time, it requires sustained effort to ensure that threats are effectively neutralized and cannot be rapidly reconstituted.

THE NATURE OF THE IRANIAN REGIME

The Iranian regime remains a central source of instability, both regionally and globally. Its longstanding calls for the destruction of Israel and hostility toward the United States are reflected in its actions, not merely rhetoric.

The Iranian regime is a comprehensive issue – not only the nuclear and ballistic missiles but also the issue of terrorism, regional meddling and oppression of its own people. Iran continues to act as the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, supporting and directing proxy organizations across the Middle East, destabilizing the region, and planning attacks globally. Its military capabilities already extend across the Middle East and into Europe, with continued development toward intercontinental reach.

Domestically, the regime has suppressed and oppressed its own population while diverting national resources toward its military and ideological agenda. Its actions against neighboring states and its own citizens underscore its role as a driver of conflict and instability.

We make a clear distinction between the people of Iran and the Islamic regime. This operation targets the regime, while delivering the potential of freedom to the people of Iran. The Iranian expats have convened rallies of support to Israel and the USA, opposite Australian Parliament as well as the Embassy of Israel in Canberra.



***Pictured:** Iranian expats rallying in support of the joint Israel–U.S. operation. For further context, please see this post regarding the demonstrations [here](#).

OPERATION “ROARING LION”

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The Iranian regime’s activities have direct implications beyond the Middle East. Its development of long-range missile capabilities demonstrates that Europe is not beyond reach.

Furthermore, Iran’s military industry supports broader global instability, including the provision of drones and weapons used in conflicts such as the war in Ukraine. The current operation aims to disrupt these supply chains and reduce Iran’s capacity to project force internationally.

For decades, Iran has also directly and indirectly targeted the United States, contributing to the deaths and injuries of American citizens and service members. The joint nature of this operation reflects a shared assessment of the threat and the need to address it.

REGIONAL IMPACT

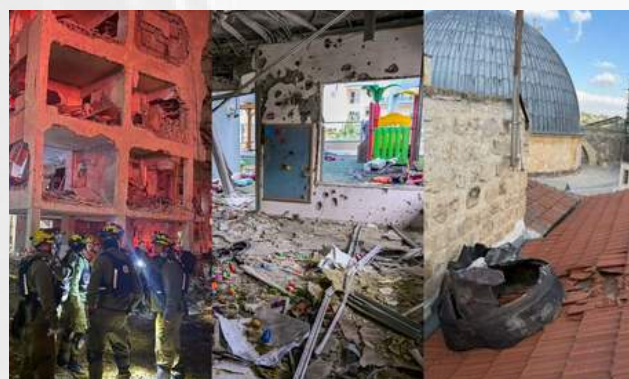
Since the beginning of the current conflict, Iran has launched attacks against multiple states in the region, including Gulf countries. These actions further demonstrate the scale and reach of the threat posed by the regime and its willingness to target a broad range of actors.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Israel’s actions are grounded in international law and the inherent right and obligation to protect citizens. It is an act of self-defense.

Israel has been under attack for decades, since the Islamic revolution. Many American lives have been lost in direct or indirect attacks initiated by Iran or its proxies. Therefore, the current hostilities form part of an ongoing armed conflict between Israel and Iran. Israel and the USA have both the right and obligation to protect their citizens and territory. All operational actions are conducted in accordance with the law of armed conflict and are directed solely at military objectives.

The Iranian regime, by contrast, deliberately targets civilian populations, in violation of international law. The decision to act reflects a last window of opportunity to effectively neutralize an imminent and existential threat.



***Pictured:** the destruction caused by Iranian ballistic missiles that struck civilian neighborhoods in Arad, an Israeli kindergarten, and the Old City of Jerusalem—including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Jewish Quarter. For further context, please refer to this post on the Iranian regime’s blatant targeting of civilians [here](#).

OPERATION “ROARING LION”

The objective of Operation “Roaring Lion” is to remove these threats and prevent their re-emergence. This operation is intended as a gateway to greater stability, not prolonged conflict, and aims to enable broader regional cooperation and the potential expansion of frameworks such as the Abraham Accords. Removal of the Iranian threat has the potential of reshaping the entire Middle East.

In summary, this operation reflects a necessary and time-sensitive response to an escalating and existential threat posed by the Iranian regime’s nuclear and missile programs, as well as its broader regional destabilizing activities. It is a joint effort with the United States aimed at safeguarding regional and international security while preserving the conditions for future stability and peace. We will continue to provide further updates and send the next edition of this newsletter shortly.



THE WAR WITH IRANIAN PROXY HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah, the Lebanese Iranian proxy, declared war on Israel and has since launched unprovoked attacks on Israeli civilians, acting at the behest of its patrons in Tehran. Since 2 March, they have launched more than 3,500 rockets, missiles, and UAVs at Israel, including from areas south of the Litani River, endangering millions of Israeli residents and forcing them into bomb shelters. Additionally, Hezbollah sent ground fighters south to the Israeli border.

RATIONALE

The ground operations in southern Lebanon are intended to establish a forward defensive posture, protect northern Israeli communities, and prevent a repeat of the evacuation of thousands of civilians from their homes. The Israel Defense Forces have conducted targeted operations aimed at protecting Israeli civilians and degrading Hezbollah's military capabilities, given the proximity of Hezbollah entrenchments in southern Lebanon to Israeli communities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Israel will not accept violations of its sovereignty or attacks against it and its citizens and will take all necessary measures to protect them in accordance with international law.

As with any country in the world, Israel has the right to self-defense and the obligation to protect its civilians.

Hezbollah's actions, and the ongoing armed conflict in which it is engaged against Israel, constitute a violation of international law, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004), and represent a direct continuation of Hezbollah's disregard for the November 2024 Cessation of Hostilities Understandings.



For further context, please refer to this post explaining the Iranian proxy Hezbollah [here](#).

THE WAR WITH IRANIAN PROXY HEZBOLLAH

In summary, we call on all countries to unequivocally condemn Hezbollah for its grave violations and designate it as a terrorist organization. We must also address Iran's role as a threat to international peace and security and as the primary driver of regional instability, holding it accountable for continuing to supply weapons and funds to Hezbollah. Please see the next newsletter for further information on the Iranian proxy Hezbollah and the imminent threat it poses to Israel and the world.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

ISRAEL'S FM SA'AR SPEAKS WITH AUSTRALIA'S FM WONG



Earlier this week, Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar spoke at length with Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong about ongoing developments in both the war in Iran and in Lebanon. FM Sa'ar emphasized the massive scale of attacks against Israel, as well as the current reality on the ground, where civilians face constant overhead fire, forcing them to run for shelter at all hours, day and night. Additionally, he welcomed the arrival of Australia's new Ambassador to Israel, Neil Hawkins.

DEPUTY FM HASKEL BRIEFS COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Over the past week, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel engaged with leaders from the Iranian diaspora, Assyrian, and Jewish communities across Australia, briefing on the Iranian regime's threats and the ongoing U.S.-Israel joint operation in Iran as well as the operation against Hezbollah in Lebanon.



LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

AMBASSADOR NEWMAN BRIEFS JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA



Ambassador Newman briefed many organizations, Jewish, Christian and other communities, since he arrived. This week he briefed Australian Rabbinical Councils on the U.S.-Israel joint operation “Roaring Lion”. He also attended an evening gathering in his honor in Sydney. His briefings focus on the regional dynamics and challenges, emphasizing the importance of achieving the operation’s mission of eliminating the Iranian regime’s nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities.

AMBASSADOR NEWMAN VISITS AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

Over the past week, Ambassador Newman visited Parliament House in Canberra, where he met with politicians from both sides of the aisle, including Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Speaker of the House Milton Dick, Minister of Home Affairs Tony Burke, Minister for Trade and Tourism Senator Don Farrell, MP Andrew Wallace, as well as the Parliamentary Friends of Israel and many others. In these meetings, he discussed ongoing developments in the region and opportunities to strengthen the Australia–Israel relationship. The Embassy looks forward to continuing its close collaboration with Australian partners.



LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

MEET SPOKESKID BEN CARASSO



The Embassy of Israel was pleased to welcome Spokeskid Ben Carasso to Australia. Before heading off to a full day at the Australian Parliament, he spent the morning meeting and speaking with Ambassador Newman. Following this, Ben, accompanied by Spokesperson Ilana Lenk, met with Senators and Members of Parliament, attended Question Time, and powerfully advocated on behalf of Israeli children, who are enduring the ongoing consequences of constant conflict disrupting their daily lives.

AMBASSADOR NEWMAN BRIEFS SOUTHERN CROSS ALLIANCE

Ambassador Newman briefed leaders from the Australian Christian community, long-time supporters of Israel. He conveyed his gratitude for their steadfast support and provided an overview of the current situation. It is always meaningful to be surrounded by friends in times of uncertainty.

GREETING FOR PASSOVER

The sages of Israel have taught us that freedom and redemption come in stages. The verse in Deuteronomy 12, 9 states “you have not yet reached your peace and tranquillity” and the sages stated “Redemption of Israel comes little by little, gradually, like the rising of the sun” (Jerusalem Talmud, Tractate Berachot, 4b).

As the Jewish people around the world prepare to celebrate Passover, the festival that commemorates the historic journey of the Jewish people from slavery into freedom, we are reminded of the enduring values which guide us as individuals and as a nation.

Freedom is not only a memory from the past. It is a responsibility in the present and a commitment for the future. It is the right to live without fear. In order to preserve our values and freedom, it is sometimes necessary to confront existential threats. As we carry responsibility for all mankind, this is a universal message.

Israel, in its operation Roaring Lion, together with the super-power of the world, United States of America, is confronting such threats. We are confronting evil. We are also hopefully bringing national freedom to the people of Iran, who are oppressed by a rogue regime. It should not surprise us that their flag is called “Lion and Sun flag”.

It is precisely in times like these that the Passover story speaks most powerfully: the journey from oppression to freedom and from fear to tranquillity and a new beginning.

Australia has supported this operation, demonstrating once again that Israel and Australia share fundamental values.

To the Jewish community here in Australia, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a Chag Pesach Kasher ve-Sameach. It has been a difficult year, for the Jewish community in Australia and for Israel. Both have suffered as a result of radicalism and Anti-Semitism. We have stood together, and consoled each other. I am confident that we will continue to support each other, and prevail.

May this Passover be a source of renewal, strength, peace and security for you and your families.



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL NEWSLETTER

We hope you find this newsletter helpful. Should you wish to add colleagues or contacts to our mailing list, please feel free to reply to this email with their details. If you prefer to be removed from this distribution, kindly let us know and we will remove you from the list.

For daily updates, we invite you to follow our social channels:



[@israelinoz](https://twitter.com/israelinoz)



[@israelinoz](https://www.instagram.com/israelinoz)



[@israelinaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/israelinaustralia)

<https://new.embassies.gov.il/australia/en>



Embassy of Israel
CANBERRA