

RESTRICTED

SUMMARY - RĀPOPOTO

With thanks to Posts for reporting, we provide an update on key developments and **attach** the media lines as provided to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs earlier today. Posts are encouraged to draw on these media lines as useful in engagements with partners. We welcome any critical insights posts can provide as we continue to monitor developments, acknowledging that events are unfolding rapidly. We are particularly interested in the posture of close partners in the region (including staffing decisions), analysis of partner and regional responses and any insights into likely next steps.

REPORT - PŪRONGO

Key developments:

- Today Israel launched 'Operation Rising Lion' against Iran, so far involving hundreds of missile strikes in Tehran and around the country. According to Israeli Foreign Affairs these strikes have been against Iranian military and nuclear programme targets.
- According to Israeli military, Iran has launched more than a hundred drones over the last few hours at Israel in retaliation and expect more to follow.
- The Israeli Foreign Ministry has stated that Operation Rising Lion was necessary as Iran was "only moments" from a nuclear weapon. Prime Minister Netanyahu has stated that the operation will continue for as many days as required to remove "the threat".
- Iranian State TV has confirmed the death of the Commander in Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and several nuclear scientists, including the former Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency, have also been reported as killed.
- The IAEA have confirmed that the Natanz nuclear facility was among targets and are in contact with Iranian officials regarding radiation levels. The attack follows the IAEA Board formally declaring Iran in breach of its non-proliferation commitments on 12 June by producing highly enriched uranium (only necessary for a nuclear weapon).
- A state of emergency has been declared in Israel in anticipation of an Iranian response. Israel, Iraq, Iran and Jordan have closed their airspace to all flights.

- The attack has occurred despite President Trump calling on Israel not to attack Iran earlier today. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said Israel's action was "unilateral", and the US was not involved in the operation.
- Divisional Manager MEA has spoken with the Ambassadors of Israel and Iran to formally convey New Zealand's position and call for restraint and de-escalation. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Responses to strikes

- Iranian Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei has vowed strong retaliation against Israel stating that "with this crime the Zionist regime has prepared a bitter and painful fate for itself – and it will certainly receive it."
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a statement refuting US involvement, has warned Tehran against targeting US interests or personnel.
- Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said that "Australia was alarmed at the escalation... and risks further destabilising a region that is already volatile". She called for parties to refrain from further exacerbating tensions.
- The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres has condemned any military escalations in the Middle East calling for both sides to show maximum restraint.
- Saudi Arabia strongly condemned the attacks and "affirmed that the international community and the Security Council bear great responsibility to halt these aggressions."

Post Safety

- All seconded staff and families in Tehran are safe and accounted for. Airspace is closed therefore the current posture is 'shelter in place'. s9(2)(g)(i)
- There is no change to the posture of other NZ posts in the region. Also no change to the posture of partner posts since yesterday's update.

Consular

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- SafeTravel messages have been sent to registrants in Iran and Israel today. The focus of messages to registrants in Iran was staying safe while Israeli strikes continue and making plans to leave when it is safe to do so. Messaging to New Zealanders in Israel focused on the risk of retaliatory action.
- There are 18 New Zealanders registered in Iran and 66 New Zealanders registered in Israel. New Zealand's travel advice is currently set to 'Do not travel' to Iran (and has been since 2020), and 'Avoid non-essential travel' to Israel (revised from 'Do not travel' in January 2025). The need for a lift in advice settings for Israel is being kept under review, remaining in close coordination with consular partners.
- s6(b)(i)
- **Action:** As resourcing allows, CON and MEA would be grateful if TEH could contact Safe Travel registrants in Iran to check welfare/travel plans, and to reiterate Safe Travel messages.

ENDS

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From: MEA

Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 4:05 PM

To: WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; TEHRAN <TEH@mfat.govt.nz>; ABU DHABI <ABD@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CAIRO <CAI@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; RIYADH <RIY@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; SORD <DM-SORD@mfat.govt.nz>; CON <DM-CONS@mfat.govt.nz>; PEP <DM-PEP@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Defence (Seemail) <fm.defence@nzdf.mil.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.govt.nz>; s6(a)

DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FM: REQUEST FOR REPORTING ON ISRAEL/IRAN TENSIONS AND RESPONSES OF KEY PARTNERS

SUMMARY - RĀPOPOTO

MEA is closely following media reporting regarding organisational decisions of some key partners to evacuate non-essential staff and dependent families from the Middle East region, as well as suggestions there may be military action involving Israel and Iran in

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the near future. We ask posts in the region to remain alert in this context, and would value reporting on partners' organisational, consular and policy responses.

ACTION - HOHENGA

TEH/ABD/ANK/CBA/CAI/LON/OTT/RIY/WSH: We would be grateful for updates on developments in the region, including on partners' positions in terms of their organisational, consular and policy responses. Contacts in MEA are s9(2)(g)(ii)

REPORT - PŪRONGO

As set out in previous TEH reporting, nuclear talks between Iran and the US are ongoing. A sixth round is tentatively scheduled for this weekend in Oman, although this does not appear to be fully confirmed. s6(a)

Iran has indicated its intention to reject the US proposal, and make its own counterproposal during the next round of talks. President Trump has in the last day stated he is now "less confident" on a positive outcome to the talks. President Trump has also previously said that he has told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold off on any military strikes on Iran to provide space for a diplomatic solution. For its part, Iran has publicly stated that US assets in the region – possibly including US military bases – could be in scope of Iranian retaliation should Iran consider the US to have supported any pre-emptive military action by Israel.

In this context, s6(b)(i) MEA is following closely media reporting in the last 24 hours that indicates US Department of Defence is offering voluntary departure of military dependants across a range of Middle East locations in response to heightened tensions in the region, in particular between Iran and Israel. There is also reporting suggesting that State Department is also considering following suit, including for non-essential staff, in a range of locations. (See [Amid Iran-Israel tensions, US withdraws some diplomats and military families from Middle East | CNN Politics](#)). s6(b)(i)

we are nonetheless following the issue closely, and would welcome ongoing updates from key partners.

ENDS-MUTU

Media lines:

- We are gravely concerned by the latest escalation in tension between Israel and Iran.
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- New Zealand has been clear it is concerned by Iran's actions in the Middle East, and its nuclear activity. These strikes however will only destabilise the region further.
-

- The best path to regional security is the ongoing talks between the United States and Iran on Iran's nuclear activity. A political deal on Iran's nuclear programme will deliver a more enduring solution than military strikes.
-
- Miscalculation could prove disastrous. Any retaliatory action by Iran significantly increases the risk of a regional war. This would have catastrophic consequences in the Middle East.
-
- Israel must also refrain from any further attacks. Our concern is that it could lead to a wider conflict. This is not in Israel's interests, nor in the interests of the region.
-
- Maximum restraint is essential. It is critical that all actors in the region prioritise de-escalation. [These are messages that we have asked officials to convey urgently and directly to the Ambassadors of Israel and Iran in New Zealand.]
-
- The broader region needs to shift its focus towards reducing tensions. It is critical to avoid a spiral into wider conflict. Our goal must be to promote stability.
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Consular

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- The Ministry is actively working to make contact with a small number of New Zealanders that are registered in Iran to confirm that they are safe and whether they need consular assistance.
-
- In light of this latest escalation, New Zealanders in the region should expect transport to be disrupted, including airspace closures and flight cancellations.
-
- If people are unable to leave Iran safely, they should look to shelter in a safe place and follow appropriate advice from local authorities.
-
- We strongly urge all New Zealanders in the region to register with SafeTravel. During events like this, SafeTravel is the main tool MFAT uses to communicate with New Zealanders on the ground.
-
- If asked about registered numbers: New Zealanders registered in Iran – 18. New Zealanders registered in Israel – 66.
-
- If asked about Iran travel advice: MFAT has long-standing advising New Zealanders against all travel to Iran. Events like this reinforce one of the reasons why this advisory is in place.
-
- If asked about Israel travel advice: Travel advice to Israel, like all MFAT's advisories, are reviewed regularly. MFAT is keeping this under close review but has no immediate plans to make changes. The current advice which recommends against all but essential travel to Israel.

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Embassy operations

- *[If asked on evacuation of MFAT staff/dependants from Iran:]* Staff and dependant movements are a MFAT operational issue. We do not comment on staff movements. MFAT is continuing to monitor developments closely.
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- *[If asked on evacuation of MFAT staff/dependants from Israel:]* New Zealand does not have an embassy in Israel.

s9(2)(g)(i)

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Latest update below, and media lines **attached**.

Many thanks,
s9(2)
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From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2025 12:28 PM

To:APPLETON, Michael (Inet) <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

SLT <WLN-SLT@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

...WLN

MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Israel/Iran strikes - Update 14.06 1230

ISRAEL/IRAN STRIKES: UPDATE 14.06 12:30

Key developments:

- Military exchanges between Israel and Iran are ongoing. Both Israel and Iran have vowed to continue their respective military operations. The situation remains highly volatile, risking broader regional instability. The scale and scope of Israel's strikes against Iran are an order of magnitude greater than anything we have seen before. For Iran, the scale of what they are experiencing is greater than anything experienced since the Iran/Iraq war in the 1980s.
- The US has been actively signalling it is not involved in these strikes, s6(a)

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- Israeli strikes against Iran are continuing. A wave of continuous strikes on Friday primarily targeted Iran's senior military leaders and nuclear scientists, as well as Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Current reports suggest at least 78 people have been killed in Iran, and over 320 injured. This includes civilians.
- In retaliation Iran has now fired at least 150 missiles and launched approximately 100 drones towards targets in Israel. It has described these strikes as an initial "limited warning". Further strikes are likely as Israel's attacks continue.
- Israeli air defences are successfully intercepting many of the missiles and drones from Iran. Some Iranian strikes have hit targets, however, with media reporting at least 63 Israelis have been injured. The US has confirmed its forces in the region have assisted in intercepting Iranian attacks.
- The UN Security Council met in an emergency session last night. During the meeting Russia asserted Iran's right to self-defence, while the US insisted Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.
- The IAEA met yesterday. The US described Israel's actions as "unilateral" and ones in which it had "no involvement." The US urged Iran not to retaliate against US assets or interests. The IAEA Director-General confirms that Israel's strikes had targeted the Natanz nuclear facility and that radiation levels around the site were not elevated.
- All nuclear sites reportedly remain stable following strikes.

International responses:

- Israel has announced its Embassies and consulates around the world will be closed to the public, including in New Zealand.
- Immediately after Israel's strikes on Tehran, Secretary of State, Marco Rubio tweeted that Israel's military action was unilateral and stressed the US was not involved in the strikes. President Trump's comments today have focused on Iran's missed opportunity to agree to a nuclear deal.
- Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand issued a statement on X calling for a de-escalation of tensions between Israel and Iran, highlighting concerns that it could further destabilise the region and the need to protect civilians. Canada also remains deeply concerned by the threat posed by Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program.
- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer issued a statement on X that "the reports of these strikes are concerning and we urge all parties to step back and reduce tensions urgently. Escalation serves no one in the region. Stability in the Middle East must

be the priority and we are engaging partners to de-escalate. Now is the time for restraint, calm and a return to diplomacy.”

- UK Foreign Minister David Lammy tweeted: “Stability in the Middle East is vital for global security. I’m concerned to see reports of strikes overnight. Further escalation is a serious threat to peace & stability in the region and in no one’s interest. This is a dangerous moment and I urge all parties to show restraint”.
- The Arab League has issued a statement condemning Israel’s attacks on Iran, describing the strikes as a “blatant violation” of international law.
- A statement from Saudi Arabia has similarly expressed “strong condemnation and denunciation of the blatant Israeli aggressions against the brotherly Islamic Republic of Iran, which undermine its sovereignty and security and constitute a clear violation of international laws and norms”.
- France and Saudi Arabia have postponed the Two-State Solution Conference that was scheduled to be held in New York from 17-20 June.

Post Safety:

Staff Situation

- All seconded staff and families in Tehran are safe and accounted for. s6(d) are at post. Airspace is closed therefore the current posture is ‘shelter in place’. HOM Tehrans6(d), s9(2)(g)(i)
- All local staff are also confirmed safe and accounted for.
- s6(d)

Post staff are in close contact with partner missions, including Australia and the UK.

- There has been no damage reported at the New Zealand Embassy (co-located with Australia) or at staff accommodation. It remains likely that electricity, phone, and internet could be further affected, s6(a), s6(d)
- There is no change to the posture of other NZ posts in the region.

Partner settings

- There is no change to the posture of partner posts since yesterday’s update.

Contingency Plans

- s6(d)

Consular:

- There are no indications that any New Zealanders have been injured by strikes on Tehran and Tel Aviv.
- The number of New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel as being in Iran grew sharply overnight – to 42. MFAT's Emergency Call Centre has also been receiving calls from those concerned about family members in Iran. The Embassy in Tehran is attempting to contact registered New Zealanders but communication challenges are hindering this.
- The travel advisory for Israel has been raised to its highest level – do not travel. Australia and Canada have done the same. Settings for other locations, particularly s6(a) , remain under close review.
- Significant updates have been made to SafeTravel this morning that provide further advice to New Zealanders in the region, including those joining 'Global march to Gaza' demonstrations in Egypt.
- In the past 48 hours, MFAT has sent SafeTravel messages (in some cases, multiple) to all New Zealanders in Iran, Israel, Egypt and Iraq.

Media:

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

Media lines:

- We are gravely concerned by the escalation in military action between Israel and Iran.
-
- Maximum restraint is essential. It is critical that all actors in the region prioritise de-escalation.
-
- These are messages that we have already conveyed urgently and directly to Israel and Iran.

-
- Our concern is that it could lead to a wider conflict. This is not in Israel's interests, nor in the interests of the region.
-
- Israel must refrain from any further attacks. And we urge Iran not to respond further.
-
- These strikes significantly increase the risk of a regional war which would have catastrophic consequences in the Middle East.
-
- New Zealand has been clear it is concerned by Iran's actions in the Middle East, and its nuclear activity. Israel's strikes however will only destabilise the region further.
-
- The best path to regional security is the talks between the United States and Iran on Iran's nuclear activity. A political deal on Iran's nuclear programme will deliver a more enduring solution than military action.
-

If asked

- *Are Israel's strikes in breach of international law, as many countries in the region are saying?* That is a question for the lawyers. We have heard Israel's argument that this was a pre-emptive strike due to their assessments of Iranian nuclear capability. As I've already said, we don't think military action is the way to address this. Dealing with Iran's nuclear capability has to be done diplomatically. Our focus now needs to be on urgent de-escalation.

s9(2)(g)(i)

- *US President Trump appears to be saying that the diplomatic talks are over, and that he accepts Israeli action. Is New Zealand ok with that?* Our concern is that Israel's action could wider conflict and won't offer an enduring solution to Iran's nuclear activity. We need immediate de-escalation, and a political agreement.
- *Do we accept that Israel acted unilaterally?* Our concern at the moment is for all actors in the region to prioritise de-escalation and seek a political solution. The US have stated publicly that they were given prior notice of the attacks but were not involved.
-
- *What is New Zealand doing about all this?* We have spoken directly with both the Israeli and Iranian Ambassadors here in New Zealand to convey our views.

Consular

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- The risks to New Zealanders in the region are growing and are seriously concerning. MFAT has raised its travel advice for Israel and provided more advice to travellers through numerous updates to SafeTravel in the last 24 hours. Messages are also being sent to New Zealanders that are registered on SafeTravel.
-
- While military activity continues, New Zealanders in Iran and Israel should shelter in a safe place, follow appropriate advice from local authorities, monitor local media for updates, and stay in touch with family and friends where possible.
-
- When it is safe to do so, we advise all New Zealanders to leave. But continued airspace closures and flight cancellations may mean this is not possible for a number of days.
-
- We strongly urge all New Zealanders in the region to register with SafeTravel. During events like this, SafeTravel is the main tool MFAT uses to communicate with New Zealanders on the ground.
-
- If asked about registered numbers: New Zealanders registered in Iran – 42. New Zealanders registered in Israel – 66.
-
- If asked about Iran travel advice: MFAT has long-standing advising New Zealanders against all travel to Iran. Events like this reinforce one of the reasons why this advisory is in place.
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If asked

-
- New Zealanders registered in Iran – 42. New Zealanders registered in Israel – 66.
-
- Iran travel advice: MFAT has long-standing advising New Zealanders against all travel to Iran. Events like this reinforce one of the reasons why this advisory is in place.
-
- Israel travel advice: Travel advice to Israel, like all MFAT's advisories, are reviewed regularly. MFAT is keeping this under close review but has no immediate plans to make changes. The current advice which recommends against all but essential travel to Israel.
-

Embassy operations

- *[If asked on evacuation of MFAT staff/dependants from Iran:]* Staff and dependant movements are a MFAT operational issue. We do not comment on staff movements. MFAT is continuing to monitor developments closely.
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- *[If asked on evacuation of MFAT staff/dependants from Israel:]* New Zealand does not have an embassy in Israel.

Out of scope

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From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 3:03 PM

To:APPLETON, Michael (Inet) <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

...WLN SLT <WLN-SLT@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Israel/Iran strikes - Update 15.06 1500 [SEC=RESTRICTED]

ISRAEL/IRAN STRIKES: UPDATE 15.06 14:30

Key developments:

- Military exchanges between Israel and Iran are ongoing. Both Israel and Iran have vowed to continue their respective military operations. The scale and scope of Israel's strikes against Iran are significantly greater than anything seen since the Iran/Iraq war in the 1980s. s6(a)
- Public statements on both sides remain s6(a) PM Netanyahu has stated that there will be future attacks on Iran that "they cannot even imagine". Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has vowed a "bitter and painful fate" for the "Zionist regime".
- The risk of the conflict expanding increased significantly today with Iran state media threatening Iranian action against UK, French and US military bases and ships if they helped block Iranian missile strikes on Israel. The US has previously confirmed its forces have helped protect Israel from Iran's attacks. PM Starmer in response to the threat announced that the UK is sending additional military assets to the region including strike fighters as "a contingency."

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- Israel's attacks appear to be highly precise although civilian casualties have been reported. Successful strikes against Iran's enrichment facilities have been reported. Current reports suggest at least 80 people have been killed in Iran including at least 20 top military commanders, and top nuclear scientists. Over 320 are reported as injured.
- In retaliation Iran has so far launched four waves of hundreds of missiles and drones against Israel as part of "Operation Severe Punishment". Further strikes are likely as Israel's attacks continue. There has so far been a limited response from Iranian proxies in the region.
- Israeli air defences are successfully intercepting many of Iran's attacks. Some missiles have made it through, however, with at least three Israelis confirmed killed and media reporting at least 70 injured.
- The UN Security Council met in an emergency session on Friday night. During the meeting Russia asserted Iran's right to self-defence, while the US insisted Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.
- The IAEA met on Friday. The US described Israel's actions as "unilateral" and ones in which it had "no involvement." The US urged Iran not to retaliate against US assets or interests. The IAEA Director-General confirmed that Israel's strikes had targeted the Natanz nuclear facility and that radiation levels around the site were not elevated.

International responses:

- Israel has announced its Embassies and consulates around the world will be closed to the public, including in New Zealand.
- Recent messaging from President Trump has been somewhat contradictory. The President stated in an interview with ABC news yesterday that the attacks were "excellent" and "there's more to come". However following a phone call today with President Putin, he said they agreed that the conflict should end.
- Overnight, the High Representative of the EU called on all sides to show restraint and refrain from actions that could cause a "radioactive release". She cited the IAEA report on Iran's non-compliance with the NPT and said "Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon" but stated that lasting security is "built through diplomacy, not military action".
- PM Starmer issued a statement on X yesterday that "the reports of these strikes are concerning, and we urge all parties to step back and reduce tensions urgently. Escalation serves no one in the region. Stability in the Middle East must be the priority and we are engaging partners to de-escalate. Now is the time for restraint, calm and a return to diplomacy."

- Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand issued a statement on X calling for a de-escalation of tensions between Israel and Iran, highlighting concerns that it could further destabilise the region and the need to protect civilians. Canada also remains deeply concerned by the threat posed by Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program.
- The Arab League has issued a statement condemning Israel's attacks on Iran, describing the strikes as a "blatant violation" of international law.
- A statement from Saudi Arabia has similarly expressed "strong condemnation and denunciation of the blatant Israeli aggressions against the brotherly Islamic Republic of Iran, which undermine its sovereignty and security and constitute a clear violation of international laws and norms".
- France and Saudi Arabia have postponed the Two-State Solution Conference that was scheduled to be held in New York from 17-20 June.

Post Safety:*Staff Situation*

- All seconded staff and families in Tehran are safe and accounted for. s6(d)
Airspace is closed therefore the current posture is 'shelter in place'. HOM Tehran s6(d)
- All local staff are also confirmed safe and accounted for.
- Notwithstanding the original shock amongst the population regarding the scale of attacks, our staff in TEH report that life in Tehran has gone back to (relative) normality surprisingly quickly, with cafes open and life continuing on the streets.
- s6(d)
Shops across
Tehran are open and well stocked. s6(a), s6(d)
- Post staff are in close contact with partner missions, including Australia and the UK.
- There has been no damage reported at the New Zealand Embassy (co-located with Australia) or at staff accommodation.

- There is no change to the posture of other NZ posts in the region.

Partner settings

- There is no change to the posture of partner posts since yesterday's update.

Contingency Plans

- s6(d)

Consular:

- There are no indications that any New Zealanders have been injured by strikes on Iran and Israel.
- The number of New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel in Iran has grown sharply since the attacks - to 48. MFAT's Emergency Call Centre has also been receiving calls from those concerned about family members in Iran. The Embassy in Tehran is attempting to contact registered New Zealanders but communication challenges are hindering this.
- The travel advisory for Israel has been raised to its highest level – do not travel. Australia and Canada have done the same. New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel in Israel is –75. Settings for other locations, particularly s6(a) remain under close review.
- Significant updates have been made to SafeTravel that provide further advice to New Zealanders in the region, including those joining 'Global march to Gaza' demonstrations in Egypt.
- Since Israel's strikes began MFAT has sent region wide advice to SafeTravel registrants in most Middle East countries (including multiple alerts to New Zealanders in Iran and Israel).

Media:

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

Please note media lines are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS – IRAN/ISRAEL STRIKES**UPDATE 16 June 2025**

- There are significant and ongoing missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel.
- The scale and scope of Israel's strikes against Iran are significantly greater than anything seen since the Iran/Iraq war in the 1980s. s6(a)
- Many commentators view this as a pivotal moment for the Middle East.
- Public statements on both sides remain aggressive. PM Netanyahu has stated that there will be future attacks on Iran that "they cannot even imagine". Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has vowed a "bitter and painful fate" for the "Zionist regime".
- Israel's attacks appear to be highly precise although civilian casualties have been reported. Current reports suggest at least 80 people have been killed in Iran including at least 20 top military commanders, and over 320 injured. Successful strikes against Iran's enrichment facilities have been reported.

People update

- New Zealand Embassy staff are currently safe and accounted for. Because there are potential targets throughout the city, there have been strikes in the same suburb as the Official Residence.
- Work is elevating on our land evacuation plans. We are in close contact with partner countries on options. We have asked Posts in CBA and LON to reach out to capital-based contacts to discuss further. There will be an inter-agency meeting tomorrow, organised through DPMC.

Briefing by Israel MFA

- s6(a) s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

Iran threats

- Iran has threatened action against UK, French and US military bases and ships if they helped block Iranian missile strikes on Israel. The US has previously confirmed its forces have helped protect Israel from Iran's attacks. PM Starmer in response to the threat announced that the UK is sending additional military assets to the region including strike fighters as "a contingency."
- In retaliation, Iran has so far launched four waves of hundreds of missiles and drones against Israel as part of "Operation Severe Punishment". Further strikes are likely as Israel's attacks continue. There has so far been a limited response from Iranian proxies in the region.
- Israeli air defences are successfully intercepting an estimated 95% of Iran's attacks. Some missiles have made it through, however, with at least three Israelis confirmed killed and media reporting at least 70 injured. s6(a)

The UN and IAEA

- The UN Security Council met in an emergency session on Friday night. During the meeting Russia asserted Iran's right to self-defence, while the US insisted Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.
- The IAEA met on Friday. The US described Israel's actions as "unilateral" and ones in which it had "no involvement." The US urged Iran not to retaliate against US assets or interests. The IAEA Director-General confirmed that Israel's strikes had targeted the Natanz nuclear facility and that radiation levels around the site were not elevated.

Airspace

- Airspace closures in the Middle East are affecting approximately 3,000 flights per day through cancelled flights or re-routing.

International responses

- Israel has temporarily closed its Embassies and consulates to the public around the world, including in New Zealand.

- Messaging from US President Donald Trump has been somewhat contradictory. President Trump [implied](#) on Truth Social on Sunday that the US could get involved, stating that, "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the US Armed Forces" will come down on Iran "at levels never seen before." But he said in the same post that "we can easily get a deal done between Iran and Israel," and came out of a phone call on Saturday with President Putin saying they agreed that the conflict should end.
- Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand issued a [statement](#) on X today noting that she had "spoken with counterparts over the last two days – including from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman – to coordinate efforts to advance sustainable peace and security in the Middle East. I voiced the importance of restraint, de-escalation, and a return to diplomacy."
- UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy spoke to Minister Sa'ar on Sunday. According to a [post](#) on X, he "expressed my concern for civilians in Israel and reiterated the UK's call for a de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East. Now is the time for restraint, calm and a return to diplomacy." This followed a call with Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi on Saturday.
- On Saturday, the High Representative of the EU [called on](#) all sides to show restraint and refrain from actions that could cause a "radioactive release". She cited the IAEA report on Iran's non-compliance with the NPT, and said "Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon" but stated that lasting security is "built through diplomacy, not military action".
- Countries in the region have characterised Israel's actions as violations of international law and urged de-escalation. For example, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called Pezeshkian on Saturday to [underscore](#) Saudi Arabia's "condemnation and denunciation of these attacks, which undermine the sovereignty and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and constitute a violation of international laws and norms."
- France and Saudi Arabia have postponed the Two-State Solution Conference that was scheduled to be held in New York this week.

Media

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS – IRAN/ISRAEL STRIKES

UPDATE 17 JUNE 2025

- There are significant and ongoing missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel. s9(2)(g)(i)
- Latest reports suggest casualties of at least 224 Iranians (with over 1,200 injured) and 24 Israelis (with over 500 injured).
- Israeli forces issued an evacuation order to residents of a large part of Tehran overnight, warning them of the imminent bombing of “military infrastructure” in the area. (The high degree of militarisation in Tehran means it is difficult to know where such infrastructure is based.)
- In addition to nuclear and military targets, Israel is now striking regime-related targets and domestic energy infrastructure. s6(a)
- While Israel has begun targeting energy assets tied to Iran's domestic consumption, it appears to have refrained from striking facilities linked to production or export s9(2)(g)(i)
- Iran has continued its missile and drone attacks in response, with over 350 missiles launched since the beginning of the conflict (primarily targeting central Israel). The Iranian government has threatened further retaliation still.
- s6(a)
- The US has announced it is directing the deployment of additional defensive capabilities to the region.
- Media reporting suggests Iran’s parliament is preparing a Bill to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (while reiterating Tehran's official stance against developing nuclear weapons). s6(a)

People update

- New Zealand Embassy staff are currently safe and accounted for. Because there are potential targets throughout the city, there have been strikes in the same suburb

[Document ID]

as the Official Residence. Strikes in the closer vicinity have lessened in the last 24 hours.

- Work is elevating on our land evacuation plans. We are in close contact with partner countries on options. We have asked Posts in CBA and LON to reach out to capital-based contacts to discuss further.

The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA)

- The IAEA met for an extraordinary session overnight, with Israel appearing almost completely isolated. The IAEA Board had only last week found Iran in non-compliance with its legal obligations. s6(b)(ii)

- s6(b)(ii)

- s6(b)(ii)

Airspace

- Airspace closures in the Middle East are affecting approximately 3,000 flights per day through cancelled flights or re-routing.

International responses

- Comments from US President Donald Trump remain contradictory. He warned on Truth Social today that people should leave Tehran and talked about the prospect of a deal with Iran in the past tense. He [said](#), "Iran should have signed the "deal" I told them to sign. What a shame, and a waste of human life. Simply stated, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON. I said it over and over again! Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!"
- This post follows comments by Trump earlier in the day suggesting that a deal could still be possible. Speaking to media at the G7 meeting currently taking place in Canada, Trump said, "I think Iran basically is at the negotiating table where they want to make a deal, and as soon as I leave here, we're going to be doing something."

- At the same time, Trump has left the G7 meeting early and the media is speculating that he did not want to sign a G7 statement on the Iran-Israel conflict that includes calls for de-escalation and protection of civilians as well as language about monitoring Iran.
- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer posted a [video](#) on X today emphasising the importance of de-escalation. He noted that stability in the Middle East is a priority at the G7 meeting. Separately, Foreign Secretary David Lammy reiterated the UK's consular advice in a series of X posts. He [said](#) that the UK is sending Rapid Deployment Teams to Egypt and Jordan to bolster the UK's consular teams in the region.
- Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told media on Monday that Australia is, "currently in the process of planning for assisted departures in the event that it is safe to do so. The timeline is primarily dictated by safety and as long as governments have closed down airspace because of the risk to civilian aircraft obviously no one can fly and we certainly can't fly."
- There have been no significant new statements or actions out of the region or from other like-minded partners, including Canada and the EU.

Media

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

Please note media lines are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS – IRAN/ISRAEL STRIKES

UPDATE 18 JUNE 2025 1400

- Significant missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel continue, with fresh waves of strikes in each direction.
- The conflict appears to be approaching a pivotal moment. s6(a)
- President Trump's early departure from the G7 to meet with his National Security Council, combined with messages on social media echoing Israeli warnings to evacuate and a demand for Iran's "unconditional surrender", has fuelled speculation that the US is considering direct engagement.
- A meeting of the US National Security Council concluded in the last two hours. At the time of sending there has been no public comment by the Administration on what was discussed.
- s6(a)
Iran has previously stated that US assets across the region would be in scope of retaliatory strikes by Iran if there were indications the US acted in support of Israel. s6(a)
- Latest reports suggest casualties of at least 224 Iranians (with over 1,200 injured) and 24 Israelis (with over 500 injured).
- Israel is continuing to strike regime-related targets and domestic energy infrastructure, in addition to nuclear and military targets. s6(a)
- While striking assets tied to Iran's domestic consumption, Israel appears to have so far refrained from striking facilities linked to oil production or export s9(2)(g)(i)

People update

- New Zealand Embassy staff are currently safe and accounted for. Work on land evacuation plans continues.

[Document ID]

- s6(a)
-
- In the last few days MFAT's SafeTravel advice has included information on overland evacuation and border routes. This includes advice to New Zealanders in Iran on border crossings into Azerbaijan, and how MFAT will support New Zealanders to receive travel authorisation from Azerbaijan authorities for this.
- Current SafeTravel registrants: 73 in Iran and 87 in Israel.

Airspace

- Airspace closures in the Middle East are affecting approximately 3,000 flights per day through cancelled flights or re-routing.

Latest international responses

- G7 leaders (including President Trump) issued a joint statement calling for resolution of the ongoing Israel-Iran crisis; reiterating that Israel has a right to defend itself; while calling Iran the principal source of regional instability and terror.
- President Trump has posted on social media that the United States knows the location of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He added that the US would not kill Khamenei but called for Iran's "unconditional surrender". In a post published thirty minutes earlier, Trump said "we now have complete and total control of the skies over Iran".
- When asked about President Trump's statements, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said "fanning the flames, pouring oil, making threats and mounting pressure will not help to promote the de-escalation of the situation, but will only intensify and widen the conflict." The statement notes that "the Chinese side calls on all relevant parties, especially countries with special influence on Israel, to shoulder their responsibilities, take immediate measures to de-escalate tensions, and prevent the conflict from expanding and spreading".
- The UAE President issued a new statement overnight, stating that "what the region is witnessing requires a coordinated regional and international movement to stop escalation". The President stated that "there is no alternative to political and diplomatic solutions. The UN and the Security Council must assume their responsibilities and take urgent and necessary measures for a ceasefire and the establishment of international peace and security".

Media

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

Please note media lines are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

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With a further update in red below.

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From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 11:29 AM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Michael (Inet) <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>;s9(2)(g)(ii)

....APPLETON,

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Cc: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; ...WLN SLT <WLN-SLT@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Israel-Iran strikes - Update 19.06 1130

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS – IRAN/ISRAEL STRIKES
UPDATE 19 JUNE 2025 1130**

[Document ID]

- Significant and ongoing missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel continue, with fresh waves of strikes in each direction overnight.
- President Trump's most recent comments suggest a decision has not yet been made on the possibility of direct US engagement in the conflict. A meeting in the Situation Room concluded within the last hour, but there is no read-out yet.
- s6(a)

- s6(a)

Iran has reiterated statements that US assets across the region would be in scope of retaliatory strikes by Iran, describing US intervention as "a recipe for all-out war in the region".

- US media reporting notes that the US has moved two aircraft carriers to the Middle East and a third is likely to be deployed, with dozens of aircraft refuelers now stationed in Europe.
- Iran's Foreign Minister has this morning stated that Tehran acts solely in self-defence but it remains "committed to diplomacy". This is consistent with comments from President Trump suggesting Iran has reached out for talks and that a deal "could still happen". (Media reports suggest Foreign Ministers of the UK, France and Germany are planning to meet Iran's Foreign Minister in Geneva on Friday, although this is not yet confirmed.)
- Israel is continuing to strike regime-related targets and domestic energy infrastructure, in addition to nuclear and military targets. s6(a)

Israel continues to refrain from striking facilities linked to oil production and export.

- Official reports suggest casualties of at least 224 Iranians (with over 1,200 injured) and 24 Israelis (with over 500 injured). Independent rights groups suggest the figure could be as high as 585 deaths in Iran.

People and consular update

- CON is preparing a submission with NZDF and the Ministry of Defence today seeking approval of proposed contingency deployments, including NZDF assets, to the region. Timing of any deployment remains to be confirmed. s6(a)

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs has announced the temporary closure of the New Zealand Embassy in Tehran (press release [here](#)). Embassy staff have departed Iran by overland route to Azerbaijan.
- A further SafeTravel message was issued overnight, including information on the temporary closure of the Embassy and providing further information on overland evacuation and border routes while airspaces remain closed. This includes information on border crossings into Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Armenia, and notes that New Zealand consular officials are currently stationed in Azerbaijan to assist New Zealand citizens (currently for Thursday and Friday but this may be extended if there is demand).
- CON remains in daily contact with FVEY consular counterparts, and is liaising with Australian colleagues s6(b)(i)
Consular advice is closely aligned with those of FVEY partners.
- Current SafeTravel registrants: 87 in Iran and 96 in Israel.

Latest international responses

- UK Foreign Secretary Lammy will travel to Washington on Friday for discussions with Secretary Rubio and Vice President Vance. Over the last three days he has spoken with his regional counterparts urging de-escalation. This included a E3 Foreign Ministers call with Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi who indicated Iran was ready to return to nuclear talks if the attacks on Iran stopped. Iran wanted to remain party to the NPT but needed "protection" – a different line to public statements that Iran was passing legislation to withdraw from the NPT.
- French President Emmanuel Macron has tasked his Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot to work with European partners on a negotiated proposal to end fighting between Israel and Iran, according to a statement from the Elysee.
- Iran issued a letter overnight calling on the Secretary-General of the UN and President of the UN Security Council to convene an emergency meeting of the UNSC in response to Israel's "premeditated act of aggression" that took place with the "full coordination" of the US. Iran calls upon the UNSC to take several specific measures, including to take binding enforcement measures against Israel. Iran also formally invokes its right to act in self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter and warns that it will continue to do so "until the Israeli aggression is fully terminated".
- United Nations Secretary General António Guterres called for an "immediate de-escalation leading to a ceasefire" between Israel and Iran in a statement Wednesday. "Any additional military interventions could have enormous consequences, not only for those involved but for the whole region and for international peace and security at large," Guterres added.

Media

- Updated media lines are **attached**. This includes updates related to the temporarily closure of the New Zealand Embassy in Tehran.
Please note media lines are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS – IRAN/ISRAEL STRIKES

UPDATE 20 JUNE 2025

- President Trump has stated he will decide whether to launch a US strike on Iran within the next two weeks, providing a window for diplomatic efforts before making a final decision. The White House spokesperson also confirmed communications between Iran and the US are continuing.
- The push for a diplomatic outcome has been bolstered by confirmation that E3 Foreign Ministers (UK, France, Germany) will meet with Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi in Geneva on Friday.
- s6(a)
messaging from Iran continues to indicate a willingness to engage in talks.
- s6(a)
Iran continues to message US intervention as "a recipe for all-out war in the region".
- The IAEA is reporting there are no indications of radiological effects following Israel's overnight strikes on the Arak/Khondab nuclear facility in Iran. There are also reports that Israel has struck the Bushehr nuclear reactor. The IAEA is continuing to monitor and assess nuclear sites in Iran.
- A missile from Iran struck a hospital in southern Israel, with around 80 injuries reported but no deaths.
- A number of countries of partner countries have temporarily closed their Embassies in Tehran, including Australia s6(b)(i), s6(a)
- Official reports suggest casualties of at least 224 Iranians (with over 1,200 injured) and 24 Israelis (with over 500 injured). Independent rights groups suggest the figure could be as high as 600 deaths in Iran.

People and consular update

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 99 in Iran and 112 in Israel.
- A joint MFAT/NZDF/Ministry of Defence submission seeking approval of proposed contingency deployments, including NZDF assets, is with MFA for consideration (the Minister of Defence approved last night). If agreed, the deployment would not depart until Monday at the earliest and would not be available for tasking until the end of the week.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and Azerbaijan (temporary) today. A consular official is also enroute to Amman to support any evacuations from Israel. Tehran Embassy staff will transit from Azerbaijan to Türkiye later today and provide consular services out of the Ankara Embassy.
- s6(b)(i)
An update on partner planning will be provided in this afternoon's Sitrep.

[Document ID]

- Daily SafeTravel messages are being sent to registrants in Iran and Israel. For Iran, this includes additional information on overland evacuation and border crossings into Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Armenia. For Israel, we are asking New Zealanders to confirm now if they are wanting assistance to leave and are able to travel at short notice.
- Any assisted departure operations out of Israel would most likely take place by bus overland to Jordan. s6(b)(i)

The Embassy is exploring the feasibility of New Zealand conducting a similar operation, though this is challenging in the absence of staff on the ground.

Latest international responses

- In an interview overnight IAEA Director-General Grossi has rejected suggestions that the IAEA Board of Governors' finding of Iran's nuclear non-compliance with its safeguards agreement, or his comprehensive report on Iran, "green-lighted" or otherwise justified Israel's action to strike at nuclear facilities in Iran.

Media

- Updated media lines are **attached**.

Please note media lines are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	002
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	21/06/2025 1500
Period Covered	20/06/2025 - 21/06/2025

Incident Summary	Ongoing missile and air strikes occurring between Iran and Israel.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Situational awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing military strikes took place overnight. Iranian missiles have reportedly fallen near Dimona nuclear facility. The Israeli military has claimed it has struck a Hezbollah site in Lebanon. • Official reports suggest casualties of at least 224 Iranians (with over 1,200 injured) and 25 Israelis (with over 800 injured). Independent rights groups suggest the figure could be as high as 650 deaths in Iran. • The International Atomic Energy Agency has reported an acute danger from radiation and chemical substances within the Natanz nuclear facility in Iran. The level of radioactivity outside the site has remained unchanged. • The Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi met with colleagues from the UK, Germany, France and the EU. No major breakthroughs are reported, although UK Foreign Secretary Lammy described the discussions as "constructive". Araghchi said Iran was ready to consider diplomacy once Israeli aggression is stopped but that "Iran's defence capabilities are non-negotiable". • In a subsequent interview, Araghchi said that Iran has concluded that negotiations with the US were a cover for Israeli action and trust has been lost. • Foreign Minister Araghchi also delivered a statement at the UN Human Rights Council. Araghchi accused Israel of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the context of many of Iran's statements at the Council, s6(a) • Araghchi has now arrived in Ankara for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. • US President Trump has said that his two-week timeline for a decision on US military involvement in Iran is a "maximum". • Russian President Putin said that Russia has made some proposals to Iran and Israel on a possible settlement. <p>Consular support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint MFAT/NZDF/Ministry of Defence submission seeking approval of proposed contingency deployments, including NZDF assets, has been approved by MFA and MinDef. Planning is

under way for a C-130 to depart s6(a)
on Monday morning (23 June NZT).

- The deployment is not yet public. Minister Peters and Minister Collins will confirm the deployment via a joint press release Sunday afternoon (22 June NZT).
- Current SafeTravel registrants: 96 in Iran and 111 in Israel.
- Daily SafeTravel messages are being sent to registrants in Iran and Israel. For Iran, this includes additional information on overland evacuation and border crossings into Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Armenia. For Israel, we are asking New Zealanders to confirm if they are wanting assistance to leave and are able to travel at short notice. 20 New Zealanders have registered their interest. We will provide further details of departure options as we confirm these.
- MFAT is in contact with eight individuals who have sought assistance with departing Iran including four individuals we are actively assisting to depart Iran into Azerbaijan. Due to difficulties with communication, we assess the number wishing to depart is likely to be greater. We are aware of six individuals (in addition to Embassy staff) who have departed Iran.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Amman (temporary). The temporary consular support team has departed Azerbaijan, with support to be provided remotely from Ankara.
- s6(b)(i)

The UK has publicly announced

it will look at charter flights.

- ANK and the consular team in Amman are exploring bus charter options that could evacuate these New Zealanders to Jordan in the coming days.

Post operations and staff welfare

- Tehran Embassy staff are arriving in Türkiye today.
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Partner updates

- s6(b)(i)
- President Trump reiterated publicly his belief that Iran is building a nuclear weapon and official US intelligence assessments to the contrary are incorrect.
- s6(b)(i)

Flight operations

- Airspace remains closed over Iran and Iraq, with restrictions elsewhere. Israel's airspace is now open but restricted, and it is not possible to purchase outbound tickets.
- s6(a)

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Key Lines of Effort/Activity	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for deployment of NZDF C-130. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand's policy response underway, including recommendations for ministerial calls.
Actions Completed	<p>Key updates and media lines provided to PM s6(a)</p>
Headline Media Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remain extremely concerned by the ongoing military action in the Middle East. • It is critical to avoid further escalation which could have catastrophic consequences. • We strongly support efforts towards diplomacy. We urge all parties to return to talks. Diplomacy will deliver a more enduring resolution than military action. • We are conveying these messages urgently and directly to Israel, Iran, and other key actors. • We remain seriously concerned about the risks New Zealanders face in Iran and Israel given continued military strikes. New Zealanders should leave via road now if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. <p>(See attached for full media lines)</p>
Response Operations	<p>Sunday and Monday the ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700.</p>
Next SitRep Due	<p>22/06 1500</p>
Handling Instructions	<p>Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)</p>
Dissemination	<p>This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.</p>
Storage and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An electronic copy of each SitRep will be saved to MFAT's document management system, once it is finalised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Security Classification and Access restrictions will be applied as appropriate. • Electronic systems used to store this material must be accredited at the appropriate level and protected against unauthorised access. • Any material extracted or copied MUST be accorded the same protection in all respects as the original material, including all caveats and handling instructions.

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	003
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	22/06/2025 1600
Period Covered	21/06/2025 - 22/06/2025

Incident Summary	Ongoing missile and air strikes occurring between Iran and Israel.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Situational awareness</p> <p>US Strikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US has conducted strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan. President Trump described the strikes as a "spectacular military success" which "completely and totally obliterating" Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities. s6(a) • President Trump also effectively set Iran an ultimatum, saying that while further attacks are not yet planned, "if peace does not come quickly" future attacks would be "far greater". In a Truth Social post, Trump said "Iran must now agree to end this war". • Trump said Israel and the US had worked "as a team". Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that the attacks "will change history". Israel has limited citizens to "essential activities" as a precautionary measure. • Iranian officials have acknowledged the attacks. A spokesperson on Iranian state media said that Iran had removed nuclear materials from the three sites "a while ago". s6(a) • International reactions have been slow to emerge so far given the timing of the attack. UN SG Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed". An Australian government spokesperson said it has "been clear that Iran's nuclear and ballistic program has been a threat to international peace and security" and called for de-escalation. [Full statement in accompanying email] • At the time of writing (4 hours since the attacks) it is not clear how Iran will respond the US attacks. <p>Initial legal advice: [subject to legal privilege and not for public comment]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s9(2)(h)

s9(2)(h)

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Other developments

- Official reports suggest 430 Iranians now killed (with over 3,500 injured) and 25 Israelis killed (with over 1200 injured).
- Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi is in Ankara for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Prior to the US strikes, Araghchi said that the US has been involved in the aggression "since day one" and that Iran cannot negotiate with the US "when our people are under bombardment under the support of the US". He said however that Iran is "prepared to reach a negotiated solution, similar to the [JCPOA]".
- At the OIC meeting, Turkish President Erdogan called for immediate steps towards diplomacy and offered to facilitate talks between Iran and the US.
- The number of Iranian missiles being fired at Israel is decreasing s9(2)(g)(i)

NZDF deployments in the region

- The New Zealand Defence Force currently has s6(a) staff deployed in the Middle East region. This includes personnel deployed to the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Israel, Syria and Lebanon, a small number of personnel in Bahrain, as well as other personnel in the region who provide logistics and transport support to all NZDF deployments in and out of the Middle East.
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

Consular support

- Planning is under way for a C-130 to depart s6(a) on Monday morning (23 June NZT). Minister Peters and Minister Collins confirmed the deployment via a joint press release on Sunday afternoon (22 June NZT).
- Current SafeTravel registrants: 92 in Iran and 101 in Israel.
- Daily SafeTravel messages are being sent to registrants in Iran and Israel, however communications with and within Iran are now extremely limited. For Iran, our messaging includes additional information on overland evacuation and border crossings into

	<p>Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Armenia. For Israel, we are asking New Zealanders to confirm if they are wanting assistance to leave and are able to travel at short notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 New Zealanders have registered their interest in assistance departing Israel. We will provide further details of departure options as we confirm these. The team in Amman continues to actively explore bus charter options that could evacuate New Zealanders in Israel to Jordan in the coming days. • MFAT is in contact with eight individuals who have sought assistance with departing Iran including four individuals we are actively assisting to depart Iran into Azerbaijan. Due to difficulties with communication, we assess the number wishing to depart is likely to be greater. One New Zealander successfully crossed into Azerbaijan today and two others are currently on route to the border. s9(2)(g)(i) <p>We are aware of seven individuals (in addition to Embassy staff) who have departed Iran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Amman (temporary). • s6(b)(i) <p>The US has begun assisted departure flights and will also use cruise ships to support evacuations.</p> <p>Post operations and staff welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tehran Embassy staff have arrived in Türkiye. <p>Partner updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A UK-man has been arrested in Cyprus on suspicion of "terror-related" offences and espionage. Israeli Foreign Minister Saar said that an Iranian plot to attack Israelis in Cyprus was foiled. • s6(a) <p>the Houthi today issued a video statement saying they will target US ships if the US becomes involved militarily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia announced that chartered civilian aircraft are on standby for use in assisted departures once airspace opens. s6(b) <p>Australians have registered with DFAT as looking to depart Iran and Israel.</p> <p>Flight operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airspace remains closed over Iran and Israel, with restrictions elsewhere. Iraq's airspace is now partially open but restricted. • s6(a)
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for deployment of NZDF C-130. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand's policy response underway, including recommendations for ministerial calls.
<p>Actions Completed</p>	<p>Key updates and media lines provided ahead of MFA and MinDef press conference.</p>
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s9(2)(g)(i)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are closely monitoring developments, including US strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities. • It is critical to avoid wider escalation which could have catastrophic consequences for the region, and beyond. • We know there are also diplomatic efforts under way. We are strongly supportive of these efforts and we hope that all parties take this chance to find a negotiated solution. • Diplomacy and de-escalation will deliver a more enduring resolution than continued military action. • We are a long way from the region, but we will continue to convey these messages directly to Iran, Israel and the other parties key to possible talks. • We remain seriously concerned about the risks New Zealanders face in Iran and Israel given continued military strikes. New Zealanders should leave via road now if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • (See attached for full media lines)
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Response Operations	The ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700 on Monday 23 June.
Next SitRep Due	23/06 1500

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.
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Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	004
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	23/06/2025 1500
Period Covered	23/06/2025 - 23/06/2025

Incident Summary	Ongoing missile and air strikes occurring between Iran and Israel. The US has struck three Iranian nuclear sites.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Trump today described US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites as causing “monumental damage” to the facilities. Iran continues to downplay the damage. • There have been no reports of radiation leaking at the sites. • s6(a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US says it is messaging Iran both publicly and privately to negotiate. • Iran has not yet responded, directly or through proxies. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Iranian Parliament today agreed to block or restrict access to the Strait of Hormuz, subject to IRGC sign off. <p>UN Security Council and IAEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US has told the UNSC it was acting in collective self-defence consistent with the UN Charter. It also said it acted to protect both US citizens and allies. • China condemned the US strikes and urged restraint/ceasefire. Russia suggested “US has opened a Pandora’s box” and “no one knows what []will follow.” • The IAEA will hold an extraordinary meeting today, s9(2)(g)(i) <p style="text-align: center;">NZ will speak.</p> <p>International responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia (PM and FM) has now explicitly supported US strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities, stating it “supports action to prevent Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. And that is what this is”. • UK and Canada both characterised US action as seeking to “alleviate” the threat of Iran’s nuclear programme while continuing to call for de-escalation and a diplomatic solution. • E3 (UK, France, Germany) leaders issued a joint statement reiterating their joint aim to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon,

calling on Iran to negotiate and urging it not to take any further destabilising activity.

- s6(a) the Houthi today said they will target US ships if the US becomes involved militarily and will likely join Iran in any retaliation.
- Iran's Foreign Minister has arrived in Moscow ahead of talks with President Putin.

Other developments

- Official reports suggest 430 Iranians killed (with over 3,500 injured) and 25 Israelis killed (with over 1200 injured). The Iranian Red Crescent reported 11 people were injured by the US strikes.

Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 119 in Iran and 117 in Israel.
- Communications with and within Iran are still extremely limited.
- Iran messaging includes information on overland evacuation and border crossing. Israel messages ask New Zealanders to confirm if they want assistance to leave and can travel at short notice.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Jordan (temporary).
- The NZDF C-130J plane departed s6(a) 9 am 23 June NZT.
- Provisional bookings have been made for a land evacuation of up to 25 NZers to depart Israel by bus s9(2)(ba)(i)
But this option is on hold s9(2)(ba)(i)

- Current demand for assistance to depart Israel is three persons (two New Zealanders s6(b)(i) Initially, 20 New Zealanders expressed interest, but in response to further enquiries (from ANK) only three persons have confirmed.

- s6(b)(i) We are in active discussions to understand this option and express interest.
- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Post operations and staff welfare

- Surge support will be increased in ANK which is now working as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran.

Flight operations

- Airspace remains closed over Iran and Israel, with restrictions elsewhere. Iraq's airspace is now partially open but restricted.
- s6(a)

- Singapore Airlines has announced the suspension of flights to Dubai.

NZDF deployments in the region

- The New Zealand Defence Force currently has s6(a) staff deployed in the Middle East region. Deployments remain unchanged.
- NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.

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<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NZDF C-130 and further planning for assisted departures, as outlined above. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand’s policy response underway, including recommendations for ministerial calls.
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are watching events in the Middle East closely and continue to call for diplomacy and dialogue. • New Zealand is a strong supporter of the international rules-based system and has a long history advocating for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. • We have consistently opposed Iran’s nuclear programme, along with many other countries. Iran cannot be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. • We take note of the United States’ decision to undertake targeted attacks aimed at degrading Iran’s nuclear capabilities. • We acknowledge the US statement to the UN Security Council that it was acting in collective self-defence consistent with the UN Charter. • New Zealand strongly supports all efforts toward diplomacy. We urge all parties to return to talks. An enduring solution depends on de-escalation and diplomacy. • New Zealand is a long way from the region, but we will continue to convey these messages directly to Iran, Israel, and the other parties key to possible talks. • We remain seriously concerned about the risks New Zealanders face in Iran and Israel given continued military strikes. New Zealanders should leave via road now if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas. • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless ‘If asked/If pressed’)</p>
<p>Response Operations</p>	<p>The ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700 on Tuesday 24 June.</p>
<p>Next SitRep Due</p>	<p>24/06 1500</p>
<p>Handling Instructions</p>	<p>Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)</p>
<p>Dissemination</p>	<p>This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.</p>

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	005
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	24/06/2025 1500
Period Covered	23/06/2025 - 24/06/2025

Incident Summary	Ongoing missile and air strikes occurring between Iran and Israel. The US struck three Iranian nuclear sites, with Iran launching missiles towards US bases in Qatar and Iraq in response.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 10am NZT this morning President Trump announced via social media an "agreed" ceasefire between Iran and Israel. Sequencing according to the President's post: Iran would "initiate" the ceasefire around 1600 NZT, followed by Israel 6 hours later (2200 NZT). The ceasefire would then last for 12 hours, upon which time the "12 Day War" would be considered "ended". Qatar mediated the ceasefire talks. • Iran's Foreign Minister has s6(a) but stating that if Israel ceases its aggression "no later than 4am Tehran time [now passed], we have no intention to continue our response afterwards". At the time of writing there has been no official comment from Israel. • Any ceasefire will likely be extremely fragile. s9(2)(g)(i) • MFA noted and welcomed positive signals about a potential ceasefire in a Ministerial statement to the House this afternoon. PM Albanese has issued a statement "welcome[ing] President Trump's announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran". • Prior to the ceasefire announcement President Trump on social media earlier this morning had characterised Iran's overnight missile attacks on the US' Al Udeid base in Qatar as "very weak". He also thanked Iran for "early notice". The post suggested no further US response would be forthcoming. • s9(2)(g)(i) s6(b)(i) • Iran's actions attracted condemnation from the Gulf and wider region, with Qatar stating it "reserved the right to respond". • Israel continued heavy strikes on Iran overnight ahead of the ceasefire announcement, including on symbolic locations like the entrance to Evin Prison (known to house political prisoners). <p>International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IAEA met overnight in Vienna. DG Grossi stated the current conflict "risks collapsing the global nuclear non-proliferation regime"

and without diplomacy the “regime that has underpinned international security for more than half a century could crumble and fall”.

- s6(b)(ii)

NZ spoke along agreed lines. s6(b)(ii)

- The DG reassured members that there was no current radiological risk resulting from the US and Israel strikes. The IAEA also made clear its confidence in the status of Iran’s nuclear stockpiles was only accurate through to 13 June.

International responses:

- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye all criticized Iran’s missile attack against the US airbase in Qatar.
- Foreign Minister Wong tweeted that Australia condemns Iran’s strikes on US bases, again calling for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy.

Other developments

- Official reports suggest 430 Iranians killed (with over 3,500 injured) and 25 Israelis killed (with over 1200 injured).

Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 135 in Iran and 115 in Israel.
- Communications with and within Iran are still extremely limited.
- Iran SafeTravel messaging includes information on overland evacuation and border crossing. Israel messages ask New Zealanders to confirm if they want assistance to leave and can travel at short notice.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Jordan (temporary).
- The NZDF C-130J plane is still in transit s6(a)

- We are proceeding with a land evacuation departing Tel Aviv by bus on Tuesday 24 June at 9 am (Israel time) to Aqaba border crossing, staying overnight, and the next day continuing to Amman airport in Jordan.

- Current demand for this land evacuation is seven persons (including s6(b)(i) . We have asked our Pacific posts to check with host governments to see if any Pacific nationals want to join the bus. s6(b)(i)

However, due to the strict criteria, our calculation is that out of 132 registrants only 1 or 2 might qualify.

- s9(2)(g)(i)

Post operations and staff welfare

- Surge support will be increased in ANK which is now working as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran.

Flight operations

- Airspace remains closed over Iran and Israel, with restrictions elsewhere. Iraq’s airspace is partially open but restricted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight disruptions followed the closure of Qatari and UAE airspace during Iran’s missile attack. Airspace has re-opened. • s6(a) <p>NZDF deployments in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Zealand Defence Force currently has s6(a) staff deployed in the Middle East region. Deployments remain unchanged. • NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NZDF C-130 and further planning for assisted departures, as outlined above. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand’s policy response underway.
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crisis in the Middle East is extremely concerning. We are worried about the developments and alert to the consequences of further escalation, including for New Zealanders. • We note, and welcome, positive signals today about a potential ceasefire. • New Zealand strongly supports all efforts toward diplomacy. We urge all parties to return to talks. An enduring solution depends on de-escalation and diplomacy. • New Zealand is a strong supporter of the international rules-based system and has long advocated for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. • We have consistently opposed Iran’s nuclear programme, along with many other countries. Iran cannot be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. • New Zealand is a long way from the region, but we will continue to convey these messages directly to Iran, Israel, and the other parties key to possible talks. • We remain seriously concerned about the risks New Zealanders face in Iran and Israel. New Zealanders should leave via road now if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas. • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless ‘If asked/If pressed’)</p>

Response Operations	The ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700 on Wednesday 25 June.
Next SitRep Due	25/06 1500

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Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	006
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	25/06/2025 1315
Period Covered	24/06/2025 - 25/06/2025

Incident Summary	Intensive missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel. The US struck three Iranian nuclear sites, with Iran launching missiles towards US bases in Qatar and Iraq in response.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceasefire between Iran and Israel, while fragile, continues to hold. It follows an intervention by US President Trump, who earlier accused both sides of violating the truce. • s6(a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trump was reportedly “exceptionally firm and direct” in a call with Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu when calling for restraint and reinstatement of the ceasefire. Netanyahu later issued a statement saying Israel had refrained from further attacks following his call with Trump. • US Defense Secretary Hegseth reinforced the President’s message in a subsequent call with his Israeli counterpart, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a statement saying Iran will not violate the ceasefire if Israel does not. In a phone call with Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince overnight, he said Iran was “ready to resolve issues with the US based on international frameworks” and welcomed assistance from “our brotherly countries”. • Overnight Trump also denied the US wanted regime change in Iran, commenting that would bring chaos. Trump also ruled out permitting any enrichment activities by Iran in the future. • A leaked US defence intelligence assessment indicates US strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities did not destroy core components and likely only set the programme back by a matter of months. The White House spokesperson acknowledged the existence of the assessment but said they disagreed with it. • Official sources suggest the death toll in Iran has risen to 606 people (although independent groups believe this could be twice as high). The death toll in Israel stands at 28 people. <p>Update on NZDF Asset</p>

- The C-130J will be ready for tasking from Friday 27 June (local time). It is difficult to predict what tasking may be required at that time. As of today, there is no demand from New Zealanders seeking to depart Israel. s6(a)

NZDF remain in close contact with

- Australian counterparts.
s6(a)

s6(b)(i)

While we don't have firm data on the nationalities held by New Zealanders currently in Iran, we assess that almost all of those registered are either dual Iranian/New Zealand citizens, or have Iranian heritage.

Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 139 in Iran and 110 in Israel.
- Communications with and within Iran remain extremely limited due to limited and erratic internet/mobile connections.
- Iran SafeTravel messaging includes information on overland evacuation and border crossing. Israel messages ask New Zealanders to confirm if they want assistance to leave and can travel at short notice.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Jordan (temporary).
- The proposed land evacuation departing Tel Aviv by bus on Tuesday 24 June and heading to Amman airport in Jordan was cancelled at the last minute. Of the initial seven passengers expected, only one New Zealander turned up, and was instead diverted to an Australian flight departing to Dubai (and arrived safely).
- Another land evacuation was planned for Wednesday 25 June, but following outreach to registrants by the NZ Embassy there was no interest, so the bus was cancelled.
- We asked our Pacific posts to check with host governments to see if any Pacific nationals want to join the land evacuations but so far there are no takers. s6(b)(i)
- s6(a)

However, due to the strict criteria, our calculation is that out of 132 registrants only 1 or 2 might qualify.

- s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)

	<p>s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)</p> <p>International responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close partners including the UK, Canada, the EU and Germany have all restated their support for the ceasefire with many calling for negotiations to bring a longer-term resolution to hostilities in the Middle East, including in Gaza. • At a session of the UN Security Council overnight, Israel said it would respond forcefully to any violation of the ceasefire. Iran thanked Qatar for its role in brokering the ceasefire. s6(a), s6(b)(i) <p>recent US statements reiterate language of collective self-defence.</p> <p>Post operations and staff welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surge support will be increased in ANK which is now working as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran. <p>Flight operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread disruptions across the Middle East’s airspace following Iran’s missile attack on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Doha’s Hamad International Airport has been particularly affected, with flight cancellations, diversions, and delays likely to persist for the next 72 hours. • Israeli airspace is partially reopened. Arrivals and Departures remain restricted and are being reviewed on a rolling basis. Airspace remains closed over Iran. • s6(a) <p>NZDF deployments in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Zealand Defence Force currently has s6(a) deployed in the Middle East region. Deployments remain unchanged. • NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NZDF C-130 and planning for assisted departures, as outlined above. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand’s policy response. Further tasking to Posts underway.
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remain extremely concerned about the crisis in the Middle East, including the impact on New Zealanders. • We note, and welcome, the recent announcement of a ceasefire. New Zealand has been consistent in calling for de-escalation and diplomacy, which we view as the only way to achieve an enduring solution. • New Zealand is a long way from the region, but we will continue to convey these messages directly to Iran, Israel, and the other parties key to possible talks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remain focused on New Zealanders in the region. We are in regular contact with New Zealanders registered with us in Iran and Israel. We are aware that some New Zealanders have already departed both countries via land border crossings. New Zealanders should continue to leave via road now if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas. • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. • New Zealand is a strong supporter of the international rules-based system and has long advocated for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We have consistently opposed Iran’s nuclear programme, along with many other countries. Iran cannot be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless ‘If asked/If pressed’)</p>
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Response Operations	The ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700 on Thursday 26 June.
Next SitRep Due	26/06 1500

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Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	007
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	26/06/2025 1315
Period Covered	25/06/2025 - 26/06/2025

Incident Summary	Extensive missile and air strikes between Iran and Israel. The US struck three Iranian nuclear sites, with Iran launching missiles towards US bases in Qatar and Iraq in response. Ceasefire now in place.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceasefire continues to hold, now in place for 36 hours. • Overnight President Trump said that "We're going to talk with [Iran] next week. We may sign an agreement, I don't know." US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff similarly stated US-Iran talks are "promising," with discussions underway through direct and indirect channels. • Both Israel and Iran are claiming victory in the conflict. Iran's Foreign Ministry has now acknowledged that nuclear installations have been "badly damaged". • s9(2)(g)(i) As noted in SITREP6, a leaked US Pentagon DIA assessment suggested damage was limited and had possibly only set back Iran's efforts by months. At NATO overnight, President Trump initially indicated some doubt over the scale of damage inflicted, before later in the day continuing to assert US strikes resulted in the "virtual obliteration" of Iran's nuclear capabilities and set it back "by decades". US Defence Secretary Hegseth dismissed the leaked intelligence as a "preliminary" assessment with "low confidence". CIA Director Radcliffe released a statement that he has "credible intelligence" that Iran's programme was severely damaged and will take years to rebuild. • Iran's parliament unanimously approved a bill on Wednesday to suspend cooperation with the IAEA. The bill must be approved by Iran's Guardian Council to become law, and stipulates that any future inspection by the IAEA would need approval by the Supreme National Security Council. • Iran's health ministry says 627 people were killed and 4,870 injured during the 12-day war. The death toll in Israel stands at 29 (with 3,200 injuries). • Israel's Home Front Command lifted all civilian restrictions, and schools are set to reopen, signalling a return to normalcy. In Tehran, the BBC reports life is slowly returning to normal with people reappearing on streets and in public squares. • With the Iran front quieting, attention in Israel is turning back to Gaza, where negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage deal are

reportedly progressing. At least 74 Palestinians have been reportedly killed in Gaza over the past 24 hours.

- s6(a)

Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 133 in Iran and 111 in Israel.
- **Iran:** Communications with and within Iran remain limited due to limited and erratic internet/mobile connections.
- Iran SafeTravel messaging includes information on overland evacuation and border crossing. We are in the process of updating SafeTravel advice for Iran in anticipation of commercial flights resuming next week.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Jordan (temporary).
- Land departures remain the best option for departure from Iran.
- Air departure from Mashhad (northeast Iran) utilising s6(b)(i), s6(a) remains open but is only available to mono-citizens.
- MFAT is progressing options for air departure via commercial airlines once these become available. If the ceasefire holds, planning dates for reopening of commercial flights is 1 July based on information provided by Fly Dubai.
- s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)
- **Israel:** We have received no further requests for supported departures from Tel Aviv (or elsewhere in Israel).
- With flight options now available from Tel Aviv, there are no further New Zealand land supported departures planned. Any requests for consular support will be directed to the commercial flight options.

Update on NZDF asset:

- The C-130J s6(a) and will be ready for tasking from Friday 27 June (local time). There is no demand from New Zealanders seeking to depart Israel and use of the C-130 for departures from Tehran remains unlikely at this time. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

International responses

- French President Macron told PM Netanyahu by phone that "all parties [must] respect the current truce". Macron said France and Israel share the same goal that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon.
- Macron stressed the urgency of the IAEA returning to Iran, noting the IAEA's role is critical nuclear safety and security.
- Turkish President Erdogan told leaders at NATO that a ceasefire between Israel and Iran needed to be made permanent, and called for a ceasefire in Gaza to alleviate the humanitarian crisis there.
- Iran's Defence Minister has arrived in China for a two-day visit.

Post operations and staff welfare

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANK continues to work as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran. We are backfilling support to allow staff to take a break. <p>Flight operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport has resumed full operations, with El Al quickly restoring a full flight schedule. Several international airlines are planning to restart flights to Israel in the coming days, while many continue to stay away. • Iran's airspace has partially re-opened to commercial flights, but Tehran's two major airports (Imam Khomeini and Mehrabad) are still not operating. • Doha's Hamad International Airport (DOH) has resumed normal operations. Although flights are landing and departing, delays and cancellations continue due to congestion and rerouting challenges. • s6(a) <p>NZDF deployments in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than the C-130, New Zealand Defence Force Deployments in the ME region remain unchanged. • NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NZDF C-130 and planning for assisted departures, as outlined above. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand's policy response. Further tasking to Posts issued.
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remain concerned about the crisis in the Middle East, including the impact on New Zealanders. • We note, and welcome, the continuing ceasefire. We urge all parties to uphold this and return to talks. • New Zealand has been consistent in calling for de-escalation and diplomacy, which we view as the only way to achieve an enduring solution. • New Zealand is a long way from the region, but we will continue to convey these messages directly to Iran, Israel, and the other parties key to possible talks. • New Zealand is a strong supporter of the international rules-based system and has long advocated for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We have consistently opposed Iran's nuclear programme, along with many other countries. Iran cannot be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. • We remain focused on New Zealanders in the region. We are in regular contact with New Zealanders registered with us in Iran and Israel. New Zealanders should continue to leave if they consider it is safe. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them

	<p>and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless 'If asked/If pressed')</p>
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Response Operations	The ECC will operate from 0800 to 1700 on Friday 27 June.
Next SitRep Due	27/06 1315

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Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	008
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	27/06/2025 1430
Period Covered	26/06/2025 - 27/06/2025

We will not be doing another sitrep until Sunday 28 June unless there are any significant developments. Assuming events remain stable, the Sunday 28 June sitrep will be the last of this series.

Incident Summary	The ceasefire between Israel and Iran is holding. Information regarding s6(a) and the status of Iran's nuclear material remains unclear. New Zealand consular response is ongoing.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceasefire continues to hold, now in place for 3 days. • Despite US claims that Iran and the US will return to negotiations, Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi said that Iran is assessing whether talks are in its interest and does not currently plan to meet with the US. • s6(b)(i) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Israel and Iran continue to claim victory in the conflict. Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei reiterated this claim in a televised statement overnight, saying Iran "dealt a severe slap" to the US. • This was Khamenei's first public appearance since 19 June. Israeli Defence Minister Katz said Israel would have assassinated Khamenei but there was "no operational opportunity to do so". • s9(2)(g)(i) <p>The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has assessed, based on satellite imagery, that the centrifuges at Fordow are no longer operational. Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi said that a detailed assessment is being carried out, but that damage is "serious". Israeli Defence Minister Katz admitted that Iran's supply of highly enriched uranium was not totally eliminated and said that Iran would be "asked to hand [the material] over".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Minister Araghchi said that Iran is evaluating how it will work with the IAEA following the passing of a bill suspending cooperation. • s6(a)

- Iran's health ministry says 627 people were killed and 4,870 injured during the 12-day war. The death toll in Israel stands at 29 (with 3,200 injuries).
- s9(2)(ba)(i)

The ceasefire is raising hopes that the economic impact of the Israel-Iran conflict will be contained.

- With the Iran front quieting, attention is turning back to Gaza and the wider region. More than 70 deaths have been reported by media following attacks on Gaza overnight.
- Israel claimed overnight that it struck a Hezbollah facility in Southern Lebanon and Lebanese officials have reported additional Israeli drone attacks. Israeli media also reported that a missile launched from Yemen crashed on its way to Israel.

Consular support

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 131 in Iran and 110 in Israel.

Iran:

- Iran SafeTravel messaging was updated last night to notify registrants that commercial air operations are likely to resume on 1 July. Registrants have been encouraged to make their own travel arrangements as soon as possible. s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)

Further advice on this will be provided today.

- s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)

With the reopening of commercial flight options and relatively small numbers of New Zealanders looking to depart, it is unlikely that a charter flight would be the preferred option for assisted departures. s9(2)(g)(i)

- Until regular commercial flights resume, land departures remain the best option for departure from Iran.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent) and in Jordan (temporary, likely to depart Sunday).

Israel:

- Since media reporting yesterday of New Zealanders not taking up a land departure option, two New Zealanders came forward confirming they still wish to depart. s6(b)(i)

both registrants have since confirmed they have made their own commercial arrangements. No further requests have been made.

- With flight options now available from Tel Aviv, there are no further New Zealand land supported departures planned. Any requests for consular support will be directed to s6(a)

or commercial flight options. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- Israel SafeTravel messaging will be updated this evening directing registrants wishing to depart to commercial options. MFAT will review its SafeTravel advice.

Update on NZDF Asset

- There is currently no identified requirement for the RNZAF C-130J to support New Zealand consular efforts in the Middle East region. We also remain in contact with close partners to support their efforts

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- As previously advised, the C130J will not be used for evacuations from Tehran. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

MFAT intends to be clear in updated travel advice that there will not be a military supported departure from Tehran and updated media advice also provides this information.

- As the situation in the region remains uncertain, officials assess that the aircraft should remain in the region at least until 1 July. This will be kept under constant review.
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

- Should demand for consular support arise, the NZDF will be available to support MFAT as required.

International responses

- With the ceasefire holding and attention returning to Gaza, international comments have been limited.
- French Defence Minister Lecornu announced that France had participated in the interception of Iranian drones targeting Israel.
- In its Conclusions on the Middle East, the European Council reiterated that "Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon" and said the EU would contribute to diplomatic efforts. The Council also called for a ceasefire in Gaza but, despite a push by Spain and Ireland, did not suspend its trade deal with Israel.
- President Trump called for the cancellation of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's trial. The US and Israel have both indicated interest in expanding signatories to the Abraham Accords, a set of agreements which normalise diplomatic relations with Israel.

Post operations and staff welfare

- ANK continues to work as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran. We are backfilling support to allow staff to take a break.

Flight operations

- Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport has resumed full operations, with El Al quickly restoring a full flight schedule. Several international airlines, including Etihad, are planning to restart flights to Israel in the coming days, while many continue to stay away.
- Iran's airspace will be fully reopened to commercial flights from 10pm NZT, but Tehran's two major airports (Imam Khomeini and Mehrabad) are still not operating. Major carriers have not yet resumed operations but are expected to from 1 July.
- Doha's Hamad International Airport (DOH) has resumed normal operations. Although flights are landing and departing, delays and cancellations continue due to congestion and rerouting challenges.
- s6(a)

	<p>NZDF deployments in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than the C-130, New Zealand Defence Force Deployments in the ME region remain unchanged. • NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change.
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Consular Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NZDF C-130 and planning for assisted departures, as outlined above. <p>Foreign policy response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of advice on New Zealand’s policy response. Further tasking to Posts issued.
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are continuing to watch the situation in the Middle East closely, including the impact on New Zealanders. • We note, and welcome, the continuing ceasefire. We urge all parties to uphold this and return to talks. • New Zealand has been consistent in calling for de-escalation and diplomacy, which we view as the only way to achieve an enduring solution. • We are closely following developments regarding the status of Iran’s nuclear capacity. We have always opposed Iran’s nuclear programme, along with many other countries. We want to see the IAEA resume its monitoring role in Iran as soon as possible. • We have 131 New Zealanders registered in Iran and 110 New Zealanders registered in Israel. We continue to provide advice to New Zealanders who wish to depart the region. Consular demand has slowed significantly in recent days. • Iranian airspace will be open to commercial flights from 10pm NZT, but the two major airports remain closed. Commercial flights are expected to resume next week and New Zealanders wishing to depart Iran are encouraged to book flights as early as possible. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas. • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless ‘If asked/If pressed’)</p>
<p>Response Operations</p>	<p>The ECC will operate on a limited basis on Saturday and Sunday, primarily focused on consular operations. The ECC expects to conclude on Monday 30 June.</p>
<p>Next Update Due</p>	<p>29/06 1600</p>
<p>Handling Instructions</p>	<p>Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)</p>

Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.
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Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Response Name: Israel/Iran Conflict Response

Lead Division: MEA

Coordination Centre	MFAT ECC
Report Type	Situation Report
Report #	009
Incident	Israel/Iran Conflict Response
Date and time issued	29/06/2025 1600
Period Covered	27/06/2025 - 29/06/2025
	<p>This is the final sitrep for this ECC. The ECC will close formally on Monday.</p> <p>For ongoing issues related to Iran and Israel please contact MEA. For ongoing consular issues please contact CON.</p>

Incident Summary	The ceasefire between Israel and Iran is holding and MFAT's emergency response is winding down. New Zealand's consular response is ongoing but transferring to BAU management.
Controllers Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consular services to New Zealanders in the region. • Ensure a credible and informed New Zealand response to a rapidly evolving situation with regional and global security implications.
Key Developments	<p>Key developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceasefire continues to hold. • President Trump said that he would "absolutely" consider bombing Iranian nuclear sites again. On Truth Social, Trump said that he had prevented the assassination of Supreme Leader Khomeini, and that, because of Khomeini's "angry" statement, US work to remove sanctions would end. • Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi called for Trump to "put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone" if talks were to resume. Iranian President Pezeshkian described the Israeli attacks as a "deliberate" attempt to sabotage the diplomatic process. • s6(b)(i), s6(a) • s6(a), s6(b)(i) • A state funeral for 60 Iranians, including military leaders and nuclear scientists, has been held in Tehran. Supreme Leader Khomeini did not attend. Media report the city remains calm. • Israeli military action has moved focus to Gaza and targeted strikes in Lebanon. Lebanese Prime Minister Salam said Israeli attacks on purported Hezbollah targets in Lebanon is a "blatant violation of national sovereignty". • President Trump said he believed a ceasefire in Gaza could be reached within a week. A spokesperson for Qatar said mediators are engaging with Israel and Hamas to "utilise this window of opportunity" following the ceasefire with Iran to restart talks. <p>Consular support</p>

- Current SafeTravel registrants: 128 in Iran and 109 in Israel.
- Consular emergency response teams are stationed in Ankara (permanent). New Zealand's temporary consular presence in Jordan has departed.

Iran:

- Iran SafeTravel messaging was updated last night to notify registrants that commercial air operations are planned to resume on 1 July. However, since that advice was sent out, we have been notified that regular international flights are likely to now be postponed until approximately 5 July due to a delay in reopening major international airports, including Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.
- Registrants have been encouraged to make their own travel arrangements as soon as possible. Due to exceedingly high demand, and the delays noted above, it may be difficult for New Zealanders to purchase flights immediately. We remain in close contact with New Zealanders wishing to depart Iran to keep them informed of their options. MFAT (Ankara) also continues to support New Zealanders departing by land.
- Communications in and with Iran are now starting to improve with internet connectivity available (albeit with some limitations). Telecommunications are possible within Iran but calls into Iran from overseas still appear to be blocked.

Israel:

- No further requests have been made for support.
- With commercial flight options now available from Israel, there are no further New Zealand land supported departures planned. s6(a)
- Israel SafeTravel messaging has been updated to direct registrants wishing to depart to commercial options. MFAT will review its SafeTravel advice.

Update on NZDF Asset

- There is currently no identified requirement for the RNZAF C-130J to support New Zealand consular efforts in the Middle East region. s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- The C130J will not be used for evacuations from Tehran. s6(b)(i)
- As the situation in the region remains uncertain, officials assess that the aircraft should remain in the region at least until 1 July. MFAT will discuss with NZDF on Monday any ongoing requirements and a process for standing down the consular response requirement for the C-130J.
- s6(a)

International responses

- With the ceasefire holding and attention returning to Gaza, international comments have been limited.
- Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov said that the Israeli and US strikes highlighted the weakness of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

	<p>Post operations and staff welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANK continues to work as a consular hub, as well as remote function for Tehran. We are backfilling support to allow staff to take a break. <p>Flight operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport has resumed full operations. The majority of international airlines are planning to restart flights to Israel in the coming days. • Limited international commercial flights from Iran have resumed – primarily airports in the northeast of the country. Qatar Airways, Emirates, Fly Dubai and a small number of other major international airlines are expected to resume flights to Tehran from 3-7 July. • s6(a)
<p>Key Lines of Effort/Activity</p>	<p>Ongoing travel advice through Safetravel, and preparations to conclude ECC on Monday 30 June. Transfer of ongoing consular work to CON, and policy work to MEA.</p>
<p>Headline Media Lines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are continuing to watch the situation in the Middle East closely, including the impact on New Zealanders. • We welcome the continuing ceasefire. We urge all parties to uphold this and return to talks. • New Zealand has been consistent in calling for de-escalation and diplomacy, which we view as the only way to achieve an enduring solution. • We are closely following developments regarding the status of Iran's nuclear capacity. We have always opposed Iran's nuclear programme, along with many other countries. We want to see the IAEA resume its monitoring role in Iran as soon as possible. • We have 128 New Zealanders registered in Iran and 109 New Zealanders registered in Israel. We continue to provide advice to New Zealanders who wish to depart the region. • Regular commercial flights have now resumed in Israel. Regular commercial flights are scheduled to resume from Iran in the next few days, and from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport later this week. MFAT is in contact with airlines to ensure we have up to date information on flight departure options. • High demand for these flights is expected, so New Zealanders in Iran who wish to depart are strongly encouraged to make travel arrangements now. • We continue to urge all New Zealanders in the region to register on safetravel.govt.nz. • We know there are many New Zealanders who have been impacted by this and other crises in the region. Our thoughts go out to them and their communities. New Zealand families are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas. • We ask all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person. <p>(See attached for full media lines; Unclassified unless 'If asked/If pressed')</p>

Response Operations	The ECC will conclude on Monday 30 June.
Next Update Due	No further SITREPs expected.

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Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

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