



Volume 5 | Issue 9

# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

**FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER  
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA**

01 May - 15 May 2025



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

## Armenia

### Armenian sectoral organisations to participate in DEFEA 2025 Defence Exhibition with a Joint National Pavilion

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, May 6, 2025

For the first time, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia will present a national joint pavilion ARMENIA at the DEFEA 2025 defence exhibition, held in Athens, Greece, from May 6 to 8. The pavilion offers a platform for Armenian sectoral organisations to showcase their products, services, and innovative solutions on the international stage. A total of 16 Armenian sectoral organisations will participate in DEFEA 2025, including 12 exhibitors and 4 visiting companies. Held biennially under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defence and the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece, DEFEA (Defence Exhibition Athens) is one of the most prestigious international events in the defence industry. The exhibition features advanced technologies and systems across land, sea, air, homeland, and cyber defence, attracting defence industry leaders from Europe, North America, Africa, Central and East Asia, and the Middle East.

<https://hightech.gov.am/en/tegekatvakan-kentron/ayl/norutyunner/defea-2025>

### DEFEA 2025: Armenia's GBL guided bomb brings autonomous precision strike capability to light drones

Global Defence News, May 9, 2025

At the DEFEA 2025 international defence exhibition held in Athens, the Armenian

company Locator CJSC officially presents its new GBL series of guided bombs, designed to equip a wide range of unmanned aerial platforms. This system represents Armenia's entry into the field of autonomous precision munitions, combining artificial intelligence and electro-optical targeting in a lightweight, modular format intended for tactical drones such as fixed-wing UAVs, VTOLs, quadcopters, and hexacopters. The GBL is an autonomous "fire-and-forget" guided munition. Once released, it operates independently, using onboard processors and algorithms to detect, lock onto, and strike moving targets without requiring external guidance. The core of the system lies in its gyrostabilised optical sensor package, which ensures visual tracking stability, and in its precision control surfaces, which maintain the bomb's trajectory toward a designated target. The modular design allows for compatibility with various warheads, thanks to a universal mounting system. The latest GBL 2.0 variant includes two onboard cameras, one with a wide field of view for area scanning and another with a narrow, zoomed lens for target designation. These sensors switch automatically during flight to maximise the efficiency of target identification and engagement. The operational range of the munition has been increased from 2,000 meters to 3,000 meters in this version, offering more flexibility in both urban and open battlefield environments.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/defea-2025-armenias-gbl-guided-bomb-brings-autonomous-precision-strike-capability-to-light-drones>

### **Prime Minister Pashinyan discusses Armenia-EU relations with Gert Jan Koopman**

MassisPost, May 13, 2025

India will send the second batch of “Akash” surface-to-air missile systems to Armenia in July, according to IADN. At the end of November last year, media outlets reported that India had sent the first battery of the “Akash” missile system to Armenia. As The New Indian Express reports, in 2022, Armenia signed an agreement with India to purchase 15 “Akash” missile systems, valued at approximately 60 billion rupees (around \$710 million), becoming the first foreign country to acquire this system. The “Akash” system, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is a surface-to-air missile capable of targeting fighter jets, cruise missiles, air-to-surface missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and other airborne threats at a range of up to 25 kilometers. Each battery of the Akash weapons system, produced by Bharat Electronics Limited, is accompanied by a passive electronically scanned array (PESA) 3D radar and four launchers—each equipped with three interconnected missiles.

<https://massispost.com/2025/05/india-to-send-second-batch-of-akash-surface-to-air-missile-systems-to-armenia-in-july/>

### **Russia ready to offer various nuclear reactor designs to Armenia, says ambassador**

Lia Avagyan

Civilnet, May 15, 2025

Russia is ready to offer Armenia nuclear power plants with reactors of various

capacities that feature enhanced safety and economic efficiency, Russian Ambassador to Armenia Sergey Kopyrkin declared during his visit to the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant on May 14. “Rosatom is ready to offer Armenian colleagues nuclear power plants of Russian design with reactors of various capacities, distinguished by enhanced safety and economic efficiency,” the ambassador emphasised during his visit to the Metsamor facility. Rosatom is Russia’s state atomic energy corporation that oversees all aspects of the country’s nuclear industry, from power generation and fuel production to plant construction both domestically and internationally. The corporation also manages the operation of the Armenian nuclear power plant through its subsidiary Rosatom Service JSC, which is currently working on extending the operating life of the station. The ambassador’s working visit to the Metsamor facility aimed to familiarise himself with the progress of work being carried out by Rosatom Service JSC on extending the operating life of the station for a second time.

<https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/950634/russia-ready-to-offer-various-nuclear-reactor-designs-to-armenia-says-ambassador/>

### **Iran**

### **Nuclear energy plays a strategic role in Iran’s development**

Mehr News, May 5, 2025

Head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami says that nuclear energy plays a strategic role in the development of the country and is a means of the national power. The nuclear industry

is the source of the Islamic Republic's power in the international arena, and this achievement is forbidden from the perspective of the hegemonic power, he lamented. The hegemonic powers, including the United States, do not want a country like Iran, which has talent, brilliant human resources, rich reserves, and a strategic position in the world, to be equipped with the means of power, Eslami continued. Elsewhere in his remarks, the head of the AEOI referred to the importance of compilation of a comprehensive strategic document to create the organisation's long-term vision and plan for the next 20 years, and noted that the comprehensive strategic document for the country's nuclear industry was developed in cooperation with elites and youth in this field.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/231466/Nuclear-energy-plays-a-strategic-role-in-Iran-s-development>

### **Iran unveils new solid-fueled ballistic missile, state TV reports**

The Economic Times, May 5, 2025

Iran's defence ministry unveiled the country's latest solid-fueled ballistic missile, state TV reported, against a backdrop of threats from the United States over its nuclear program. TV showed the "Qassem Basir" ballistic missile during an interview with Defence Minister Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh. He said it includes improvements in both guidance and maneuverability to overcome layers of defence and easily bypass anti-ballistic defence systems. The missile was most recently tested on April 17. TV described the missile as having at least a 1,200-

kilometer (745-mile) range. It also said the missile can identify and strike a designated target among multiple ones without GPS guidance and with pinpoint accuracy. In reaction to a May 1 comment by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on the platform X, in which he warns Iran about its support for the Houthis in Yemen, Nasirzade said if war is initiated by the US or Israel, Iran will strike their interests, bases and forces "wherever they are and whenever necessary." Nasirzadeh added: "We have no hostility toward neighboring countries and seek brotherly relations, but in the event of an attack, US bases in the region will be considered legitimate targets."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-unveils-new-solid-fueled-ballistic-missile-state-tv-reports/articleshow/120884573.cms?from=mdr>

### **Beyond the bomb: Ideology as the engine of Iran's nuclear doctrine**

By Marjan Keypour Greenblatt

Atlantic Council, May 6, 2025

As a new round of nuclear talks between the United States and the Islamic Republic looms, negotiators must come to terms with the fact that the threat of the Iranian regime is not rooted in its nuclear ambitions, but rather in Tehran's ideological foundation. Should the officials return to negotiations, Washington must acknowledge the ideological motivations underpinning Iran's nuclear ambitions beyond enrichment levels, centrifuge counts, and sunset clauses. What US President Donald Trump's administration might overlook is that Iran's nuclear program is not simply about energy or military deterrence—it is a tool for advancing a revolutionary

ideology. Since 1979, the Islamic Republic has operated along two strategic tracks: exporting its Shia revolutionary doctrine and establishing influence through networks like the “Axis of Resistance.” This expansion is not limited to the Middle East—it includes initiatives in Africa and Latin America, where Iran quietly builds ideological and military infrastructure. At the core of this ideology is an enduring hostility toward the United States and an obsession with the destruction of Israel.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/beyond-the-bomb-ideology-as-the-engine-of-irans-nuclear-doctrine/>

### **Iran unveils electro-optical-guided ballistic missile**

Jeremy Binnie

Janes, May 6, 2025

Iran's defence minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh unveiled a ballistic missile called the Qasem Basir that has an electro-optical guidance system on 3 May. In an interview with Iranian television, Brig Gen Nasirzadeh described the Qasem Basir as an upgraded missile with improved manoeuvrability, so it can more effectively evade missile defence systems, and a guidance system that is immune to electronic warfare. He showed a video of a missile that looked like the Shahid Haj Qasem being launched, which included black-and-white footage that appeared to be filmed by its seeker as it descended towards its target, implying it uses an infrared sensor to find its target. Brig Gen Nasirzadeh was cited in the interview as saying the Qasem Basir also has a new carbon-fibre body that makes it almost invisible to radar. He added that the missile

upgrade uses the lessons learned from operations ‘True Promise 1’ and ‘True Promise 2’, the missile attacks on Israel on 13–14 April 2024 and 1 October 2024 respectively, and that Iranian experts estimate that Iran's enemies will now only be able to intercept fewer than five of 200–300 missiles launched in a future attack. The Qasem Basir was said to have a range of at least 1,200 km but no figure was given for the size of its warhead. Named after the late Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, the Shahid Haj Qasem was unveiled in August 2020 and reportedly has a range of 1,400 km with a 500 kg warhead.

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/weapons/iran-unveils-electro-optical-guided-ballistic-missile>

### **Trump calls on Iran to abandon nuclear ambitions, threatens with consequences**

News.am, May 7, 2025

The Iranian authorities must make the right decision and abandon the possibility of acquiring nuclear weapons. Otherwise, they will leave the United States with no alternative, US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House. "This is really crunch time. I would tell you for Iran and, for their country, this is a very important time for Iran. This is the most important time in the history of Iran for Iran, and I hope they do what's right. I'd love to see a peace deal, a strong peace, so they cannot have a nuclear weapon," Trump said. "They [i.e. Iran] have everything you need. The people are incredible. They have vast amounts of oil and assets. We want it to be a successful country," he added. "We don't wanna do anything that's gonna get in



the way of that, but they can't have a nuclear weapon. And if they choose to go a different route, it's gonna be a very sad thing. And and it's something we don't wanna have to do, but we have no choice. They're not gonna have a nuclear weapon," the US president concluded.

<https://news.am/eng/news/881375.html>

### **Iran to supply Russia with Fath-360 Ballistic Missile launchers for battlefield use in Ukraine**

Army Recognition, May 10, 2025

In a development that signals a deepening strategic alliance between Iran and Russia, Iran is reportedly preparing to deliver Fath 360 tactical surface-to-surface ballistic missile launchers to Russia. This move follows a series of escalating arms transfers that have already reshaped the battlefield dynamics in Ukraine. On May 9, 2025, the international press agency Reuters confirmed that Iranian-made Fath 360 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs), are expected to be shipped to Russia in the near future. The significance of this delivery lies not only in the capability of the systems but also in the strategic implications of the growing military cooperation between the two nations amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. Iran and Russia have, over the past two years, intensified their military cooperation. Despite earlier denials by both parties, Western intelligence has confirmed that Iran has already supplied Russia with thousands of drones, including the Shahed-series loitering munitions, and artillery shells. The inclusion of tactical ballistic missile systems represents a serious upgrade in the scale and lethality of Iranian assistance. U.S. Army General Christopher

Cavoli, the commander of U.S. Central Command, testified last month before Congress that Iran had donated over 400 short-range ballistic missiles to Russia. Although the specific types were not publicly disclosed at the time, sources now indicate that the Fath 360 is among the systems either delivered or being prepared for imminent deployment. Notably, until now, there have been no confirmed public reports of the Fath-360 being used by Russian forces or integrated into their operational structure.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/breaking-news-iran-to-supply-russia-with-fath-360-ballistic-missile-launchers-for-battlefield-use-in-ukraine>

### **Iran says nuclear talks 'difficult but useful', US 'encouraged'**

Aya Iskandarani, Menna Zaki

Al-Monitor, May 10, 2025

Iran and the United States wrapped up nuclear talks in Oman on Sunday with no apparent breakthrough in a public standoff over enrichment, but with both sides confirming plans for future negotiations. This was the fourth round of talks that began nearly a month ago, marking the highest-level contact between the two foes since Washington withdrew in 2018 from a landmark nuclear deal, during President Donald Trump's first term. Both sides had reported progress in the previous three rounds, and Iran said the meeting was "difficult but useful" while a senior US official said Washington was "encouraged". The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington was "encouraged by today's outcome and look forward to our next meeting, which

will happen in the near future", without specifying when. In a post on X, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said that the "next round will be coordinated and announced by Oman", which in turn said "the talks will take place once both parties... consult their leaderships". According to the US official, the talks were "both direct and indirect, and lasted over three hours".

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2025/05/iran-says-nuclear-talks-difficult-useful-us-encouraged>

### **Iran says fourth round of 'difficult' nuclear talks with US ends in Oman**

Maziar Motamedi

Al-Jazeera, May 11, 2025

Tehran, Iran – A fourth round of indirect nuclear talks between Iran and the United States has concluded in the Omani capital, Muscat, with Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs describing them as "difficult but useful". After about three hours of negotiations on Sunday, spokesman Esmail Baghaei described the talks as "difficult but useful talks to better understand each other's positions and to find reasonable and realistic ways to address the differences". Before the talks started, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told state media that Iran has a legal right to civilian enrichment of uranium that cannot be subjected to any deal. A landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal, from which US President Donald Trump withdrew during his first term, allowed Iran to pursue its civilian nuclear activity but put restrictions on uranium enrichment to prevent Tehran

from making a nuclear bomb. "Enrichment is one of the achievements and honours of the Iranian nation. We have paid a heavy price for enrichment. The blood of our nuclear scientists has been spilled for this achievement," he said in reference to scientists assassinated by Israel over the years.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/11/iran-says-nuclear-enrichment-non-negotiable-before-us-talks-in-oman>

### **Israel is region's greatest threat, says Iranian FM in Doha**

Tehran Times, May 11, 2025

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called Israel the "single greatest threat to peace in the region," citing its nuclear arsenal and aggressive regional policies as the root causes of instability in West Asia. Speaking at the Fourth Round of Iranian-Arab Dialogues in Doha, Araghchi condemned the Israeli regime's ongoing military operations in Gaza and its expansionist agenda, accusing it of pursuing a policy of genocidal erasure against the Palestinian people. "The existence of the Zionist regime remains the most serious threat to regional peace," he said. "Its policies of occupation, apartheid, and undeclared nuclear weapons endanger the entire region, while its American backers remain complicit in these crimes." He dismissed the two-state solution as a "myth" used to delay justice, pointing out that even Israeli officials no longer pretend to support the framework. In the same address, Araghchi criticised Western powers for what he described as "unacceptable double standards" regarding nuclear proliferation. He said while Iran's

peaceful nuclear energy program faces constant pressure and accusations, Israel's nuclear arsenal is ignored. "Iran is committed to the international non-proliferation regime and has never sought weapons of mass destruction," Araghchi said. "Yet the West continues to target Iran with sanctions and political pressure while remaining silent on Israel's nuclear stockpile."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/512927/Israel-is-region-s-greatest-threat-says-Iranian-FM-in-Doha>

### **Iran warns nuclear talks could stall if US demands go beyond weapons**

Iran International, May 11, 2025

Iran warned that nuclear talks with the United States could collapse if Washington insists on what Tehran called "excessive demands," as negotiators from both sides gathered in Oman for a fourth round of indirect discussions. The talks, facilitated by Omani officials and held behind closed doors in Muscat, come amid escalating rhetoric from both capitals and ahead of a high-stakes Middle East trip by US President Donald Trump. Before departing for Muscat, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran had submitted a proposal intended to reassure the international community of the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. He warned, however, that the talks would fail if the United States continues to push beyond nuclear weapon-related commitments. "If demands exceed assurances against nuclear weapons, the talks could stall," Araghchi told reporters in Tehran. "We hope the other side comes with a clear negotiating logic. Talks should remain at the table, not

in the press." He added, "Iran has well-known positions based on clear principles... We hope to reach a decisive stance in Sunday's meeting." Araghchi also accused the United States of adopting contradictory positions. "There are actors pushing for conflict—we understand this, but it is their problem," he said. "If there are concerns, we are ready to build trust."

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202505119937>

### **U.S. sanctions related to Iranian Nuclear-Related research with potential military applications**

Marco Rubio

U.S. Department of State, May 12, 2025

The Department of State is sanctioning three Iranian nationals and one Iranian entity with ties to Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research, which is known by its Persian acronym, SPND – the direct successor organisation to Iran's pre-2004 nuclear weapons program, also referred to as the Amad Project. All individuals sanctioned are involved in activities that materially contribute to, or pose a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Iran continues to substantially expand its nuclear program and carry out dual-use research and development activities applicable to nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons delivery systems. Iran is the only country in the world without nuclear weapons that is producing uranium enriched to 60 percent and it continues to use front companies and procurement agents to obscure its efforts to acquire dual-use items from foreign suppliers. The



United States' actions are intended to delay and degrade the ability of SPND to conduct nuclear weapons research and development.

<https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/05/u-s-sanctions-related-to-iranian-nuclear-related-research-with-potential-military-applications/>

### **US sanctions 3 Iranians, 1 entity linked to nuclear weapons programme**

Business Standard, May 13, 2025

The US Department of State announced sanctions against three Iranian individuals and one Iranian entity linked to Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), the successor to the country's pre-2004 nuclear weapons programme, known as the Amad Project. The sanctioned parties were accused of contributing to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a statement said, "Today, the Department of State is sanctioning three Iranian nationals and one Iranian entity with ties to Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research, which is known by its Persian acronym, SPND - the direct successor organisation to Iran's pre-2004 nuclear weapons programme, also referred to as the Amad Project. All individuals sanctioned are involved in activities that materially contribute to, or pose a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." The statement further highlighted Iran's status as the only non-nuclear-armed nation enriching uranium to 60 per cent purity, while also accusing the country of using front companies and procurement agents to

obtain dual-use items from international suppliers.

[https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-sanctions-3-iranians-1-entity-linked-to-nuclear-weapons-programme-125051300042\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-sanctions-3-iranians-1-entity-linked-to-nuclear-weapons-programme-125051300042_1.html)

### **Iran rejects nuclear suspension, demands guarantees**

Iran Wire, May 14, 2025

Iran's Foreign Ministry has rejected calls to suspend its nuclear program, saying that the Islamic Republic will require "guarantees" before agreeing to any nuclear deal. "Without receiving specific commitments, no agreement will be achieved," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei. Baghaei ruled out a halt to Iran's nuclear activities, saying, "The suspension of the nuclear program is not under discussion." He reiterated Iran's position that security guarantees are essential for any potential agreement. The comments follow a statement by Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi, who indicated that Tehran may be open to temporary restrictions on its uranium enrichment program as a confidence-building measure. "We have announced that, for a limited period, we can accept certain restrictions regarding the level and capacity of enrichment," Takht-Ravanchi told reporters in Tehran. He noted that negotiations remain in the early stages and that no specific details about the limitations have been discussed. "We have not yet reached the stage of determining a specific timeframe or enrichment percentage," he said.

<https://iranwire.com/en/news/141183-iran-rejects-nuclear-suspension-demands-guarantees/>

## **Tehran would forgo highly enriched uranium in nuclear deal with Trump, Ali Shamkhani**

First Channel News, May 15, 2025

Iran is ready to sign a nuclear deal with certain conditions with President Donald Trump in exchange for lifting economic sanctions, a top adviser to Iran's supreme leader told NBC News. He said Iran would commit to never making nuclear weapons, getting rid of its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium which can be weaponised, agree to enrich uranium only to the lower levels needed for civilian use, and allow international inspectors to supervise the process, in exchange for the immediate lifting of all economic sanctions on Iran. Asked if Iran would agree to sign an agreement today if those conditions were met, Shamkhani said, "Yes". Shamkhani expressed frustration at U.S. President Donald Trump's tone and continued threats. While Iran has always denied that it is seeking to do so, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, says that it has enriched enough uranium close to weapons-grade quality to make six nuclear bombs.

<https://www.1lurer.am/en/2025/05/15/Tehran-would-forgo-highly-enriched-uranium-in-nuclear-deal-with-Trump-Ali-Shamkhani/1313679>

## **Iraq**

### **Airbus begins delivery of 12 H225M Caracal helicopters to Iraq for attack and rescue roles**

Global Defence News, May 1, 2025

As reported by Aliarmy2024 on April 30, 2025, Iraq received its first two H225M

Caracal helicopters, delivered at the Airbus facility in Marignane, France, and officially handed over to Iraqi Minister of Defence Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi. Iraq received its first two H225M Caracal helicopters, delivered at the Airbus facility in Marignane, France, and officially handed over to Iraqi Minister of Defence Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi. The helicopters will be operated by the Iraqi Army Aviation Command and are expected to replace older Mil Mi-17 models. These helicopters are intended for multiple roles, including tactical troop transport, special operations, counter-terrorism, attack missions, ground fire support, medical evacuation, and combat search and rescue.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/aerospace-news/2025/airbus-begins-delivery-of-12-h225m-caracal-helicopters-to-iraq-for-attack-and-rescue-roles>

## **Israel**

### **Israel's Gaza 'Nuclear Option' and why it is losing the war – Analysis**

Robert Inlakesh

The Palestine Chronicle, May 6, 2025

What appears to be the actual strategy here is to coerce the civilian population through starvation; as for any ground maneuvers, it is difficult to see how their forces will prove successful against the Palestinian resistance. Threat after threat, plan after plan, yet the Israeli military still fails to achieve victory on any front it fights on. None of its publicly stated objectives have been achieved in Gaza, aside from the mass murder of civilians and now, for the 19th consecutive month the Israeli leadership floats new "total victory" plans that change

by the hour. Since March, when Israel decided to collapse the Gaza ceasefire agreement and impose an all out starvation policy on the civilian population of the besieged territory, various threats regarding a “second phase” of the war have been made from senior Israeli officials. One day, Israel and US President Donald Trump are discussing American ownership of the territory, the next day Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to convince his population that Israel needs to occupy Gaza. In terms of Israeli soldiers who will participate in the renewed large-scale assault on the civilian populated areas of the Gaza Strip, we are informed that 100,000 reserves are needed, then we hear 20,000 have been recruited and that 60,000 have received orders to be ready for deployment. But wait, of the 60,000, an unknown number will be deployed along the Lebanon-Syria border area?

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/israels-gaza-nuclear-option-and-why-it-is-losing-the-war-analysis/>

### **Israel's IAI unveils LORA ballistic missile system with Long-Range precision strike capability**

Army Recognition, May 7, 2025

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) presented the LORA missile system at DEFEA 2025 in Athens, highlighting its role in long-range precision strike operations as part of a new generation of ground-based artillery capabilities. Designed as a theater-level ballistic missile, LORA (Long Range Artillery) offers states a flexible deterrent option, fitting seamlessly within strategic concepts like Greece's planned 'Achilles Shield'. Its combination of exo-

atmospheric reach, rapid deployment, and precision accuracy positions it as a key asset in modern high-intensity conflict environments. As interest grows internationally, including from India's Navy, LORA's relevance as both a mobile and naval platform exemplifies evolving regional defense doctrines emphasising responsive deep-strike capability. LORA is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile system designed for long-range artillery missions, deployed from mobile 4x4 launcher trucks or naval platforms. With a maximum range of 430 km and a minimum engagement distance of 90 km, it is optimised for high-precision strikes using a GNSS/INS guidance system and boasts a circular error probable (CEP) of 10 meters. Its compact design allows four sealed missiles to be carried and launched from a 16-ton flatbed vehicle, with reloads occurring in under an hour and launch preparation requiring less than 10 minutes. It integrates shoot-and-scoot tactics and provides full 360° engagement coverage without azimuth restrictions. The system's design removes the need for missile maintenance and features all-electric drive systems, enhancing battlefield survivability and reducing logistical demands.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/defea-2025-israels-iai-unveils-lora-ballistic-missile-system-with-long-range-precision-strike-capability>

### **Israel discusses JASSM missile procurement with US**

Inder Singh Bisht

The Defense Post, May 7, 2025

Israel's Ministry of Defence (MoD) is reportedly in “advanced talks” with the US

to procure Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM) from Lockheed Martin. The MoD refused to comment on the report while Lockheed Martin asked to refer it to the US government, according to the outlet. “Foreign military sales are government-to-government transactions and we work closely with the US government on any military sales to international customers,” Globes quoted the company as saying. “Discussions regarding sales to foreign governments are best addressed by the US government.” First inducted in 2009, the air-launched missile has standard and extended range versions. The basic version features a maximum range of about 370 kilometers (230 miles), while the extended range can strike up to 930 kilometers (578 miles) away. The missile’s 450-kilogram (992 pound) blast fragmentation warhead allows it to damage heavily defended ground targets such as command and control posts and air defence systems. Though the missile is unlikely to cause any damage to Iran’s deeply-buried nuclear sites in a potential conflict, it would provide an additional option to the Israeli Air Force to strike certain targets from a stand-off range.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/05/07/israel-jassm-missile-procurement/>

### **Trump no longer demanding Saudis recognise Israel for nuclear deal with US**

Times of Israel, May 8, 2025

The United States is no longer demanding Saudi Arabia normalise ties with Israel as a condition for progress on civil nuclear cooperation talks, two sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters ahead of US President Donald Trump’s visit to

Riyadh next week. Dropping the demand that Saudi Arabia establish diplomatic relations with Israel would be a major concession by Washington. Under former US president Joe Biden, nuclear talks were an element of a wider US-Saudi deal tied to normalisation and Riyadh’s goal of a defence treaty with Washington. The kingdom has repeatedly said it would not recognise Israel without a guarantee of a viable path to a Palestinian state, frustrating Biden administration attempts to expand the Abraham Accords signed during Trump’s first term. Under those accords, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco normalized relations with Israel. Progress toward Saudi recognition of Israel has been halted by fury in Arab countries over the war raging in Gaza. The nuclear talks had also stumbled over Washington’s non-proliferation concerns.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-no-longer-demanding-saudis-recognize-israel-for-nuclear-deal-with-us-sources/>

### **Israel intercepts missile launched by Yemen’s Houthis**

Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2025

Air raid sirens were heard in Israel as a missile was launched towards the territory by Yemen’s Houthis, who say they are retaliating against Israeli sites in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. Israel’s military said it intercepted the projectile using its air defence systems. There were no reports of injuries or damage from the missile attack, according to a military statement. The incident came days after Oman said it mediated a ceasefire deal between the United States and the Houthis, with the Yemeni group saying the agreement did not

include Israel. Houthi rebels fired a “hypersonic ballistic missile” towards Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, while also claiming a drone attack “targeting a vital Israeli enemy target” in the same area, according to the group’s military spokesperson, Yahya Saree. Israeli media reported that air raid sirens were sounded in several areas across central Israel, with people receiving early warning mobile messages about the missile attack. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said that Israel would respond forcefully in Yemen and “wherever necessary”, describing the Houthi missiles as “Iranian”.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/9/houthis-claim-responsibility-for-missile-attack-on-israel-airport>

### **The role of Israeli drones in India and Pakistan's showdown**

Sabena Siddiqui

The New Arab, May 12, 2025

After a deadly militant attack in Indian-held Kashmir in late April, New Delhi and Islamabad have escalated far beyond the usual ‘limited war’ both nuclear powers have opted for in recent years. During the most intense fighting in decades, which ended abruptly with a fragile ceasefire declared on Saturday, fighter jets, missiles, and drones were all used, with the latter marking a new phase in the rivalry. Pakistan’s military claimed it had downed 25 Israeli-made Indian drones over some of the country’s major cities, including Karachi, Rawalpindi, and Lahore. India accused Pakistan on the same day of launching several waves of missile and drone attacks on its military bases in India and Indian-administered Kashmir, which it

claimed were shot down by its air defence systems. The use of drones came a day after what has been described as one of the longest and largest aerial dogfights in recent aviation history, when 125 Indian and Pakistani fighter jets battled for over an hour. India has so far denied Pakistan’s claims of shooting down its jets, but if evidence emerges to support significant damage to India’s Air Force, it would represent an operational failure for New Delhi.

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/role-israeli-drones-india-and-pakistans-showdown>

### **Israel's defence giants eye Greece as key market amid growing regional security tensions**

Caliber, May 14, 2025

At the recent DEFEA defence exhibition in Athens, Israeli defence giants showcased cutting-edge technology, highlighting a strategic alliance fueled by shared concerns over regional security. “The impressive Israeli participation highlights the country’s position as one of the global leaders in defence technology and underscores the partnership between Israel and Greece,” said Israel’s Ministry of Defence in a statement. A key factor driving these closer ties, according to Gallia Lindenstrauss, senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, is the strategic concern over Türkiye. “Greece is both a buyer of Israeli defence products and a security partner of Israel,” Lindenstrauss explained. “The Turkish threat seems to solidify the shared interests between Israel and Greece in the security realm for many years forward.” These strengthened



relations have come as Israel's ties with Türkiye have soured in recent years. Lahav Harkov, senior research fellow at the Misgav Institute, emphasised that the collaboration between Greece and Israel goes beyond "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." He noted, "The countries have done military exercises together and share intelligence."

<https://caliber.az/en/post/from-oil-to-innovation-trump-s-saudi-trip-may-define-us-middle-east-strategy>

## Jordan

### UAE and Jordan hold first round of consular consultations

United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs, May 9, 2025

The United Arab Emirates and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan held the first round of joint consular consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of senior officials from both Ministries. The meeting comes as part of ongoing efforts to enhance consular cooperation and improve the quality of services provided to citizens of both countries. The UAE delegation was headed by His Excellency Omar Obaid AlHesan AlShamsi, MoFA Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, while the Jordanian side was led by His Excellency Ambassador Majid Al-Qatarneh, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan. At the opening of the session, H.E. AlShamsi welcomed the Jordanian delegation and conveyed the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,

along with his wishes for a successful and productive dialogue.

<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2025/5/9/9-5-2025-UAE-jordan>

### Jordan, UK launch joint military drill "Sword 25"

Defaiya, May 12, 2025

The joint Jordanian-British military exercise "Sword 25" kicked off, conducted by the 81st Rapid Intervention Battalion part of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Rapid Intervention Brigade in cooperation with a unit from the UK's 16th Air Assault Brigade. Spanning four weeks, the drill aims to enhance participants' skills in joint planning, coordination, and rapid response to emergencies, while improving decision-making capabilities under various conditions and challenges. The training includes joint operations such as planning procedures, intelligence gathering, urban and desert combat, and air assault operations. Live-fire exercises using various weapons systems and support arms are also part of the program, along with desert survival and tactical skills training. The exercise is part of the Jordan Armed Forces' broader training strategy, conducted in cooperation with allied and friendly armies to exchange expertise, bolster combat readiness, and strengthen operational capabilities in diverse environments, Petra news agency reported. In another development, Chairman of the Jordanian Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Yousef Huneiti, welcomed Saturday visiting Indonesian Defence Minister Shafri Shamsuddin and an accompanying delegation at the General

Command of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF).

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Defense%20News/Asia/2025/05/12/jordan-uk-launch-joint-military-drill-sword-25>

## Kuwait

### Kuwait stresses nuclear disarmament as basic principle of NPT

Zawya, May 2, 2025

State of Kuwait underlined nuclear disarmament as the ultimate goal and basic principle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), considering it a main pillar of international stability and NPT credibility. The call was made by the Diplomatic Attache' of the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation at the UN Bandar Al-Enezi before the Third Preparatory Committee of the NPT. He said that though the treaty came into force more than 50 years ago, its main goal of nuclear disarmament has not been attained, a worrying thing that requires some urgent international action. He added that policies of nuclear deterrence and continued modernisation of nuclear arsenals have fueled the arms race and increased regional and international tensions in a clear-cut breach of relevant international commitments. The Kuwaiti diplomat regarded that the complete and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons as part of an internationally verifiable framework is deemed the only guarantee to avert their future use.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/kuwait-stresses-nuclear-disarmament-as-basic-principle-of-npt-jzrj7gct>

### Kuwait renews call for a nuclear-free Middle East

Kuwait Times, May 6, 2025

Kuwait reiterated its unwavering commitment to establishing a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), during remarks delivered late Monday at a United Nations meeting in New York. Addressing the preparatory committee for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Diplomatic Attaché Abdulaziz Al-Seidi of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the UN affirmed that Kuwait's position is rooted in the outcomes of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. That landmark agreement, he noted, remains a key legal and ethical foundation and binds nuclear-armed states, including the treaty's depositary powers - the United States, United Kingdom and Russia. Al-Seidi stressed the importance of universal adherence to the NPT and full implementation of its provisions, particularly in achieving disarmament and preventing the spread of nuclear and other WMDs. He also lauded the increasing momentum behind the treaty, which aligns with United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/546 that advocates for the creation of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and WMDs.

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/27345/kuwait/other-news/kuwait-renews-call-for-a-nuclear-free-middle-east/>

## **Kuwait unveils Defence Strategic Plan 2025–2030 to strengthen national security**

Times Kuwait, May 8, 2025

At a ceremony held at the multi-purpose building in the Mubarakia camps, Kuwait's Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah, proudly announced the launch of the Ministry of Defense's Strategic Plan for 2025–2030, describing it as a major milestone and a key pillar in modernising and enhancing the Ministry's performance and capabilities. The plan, he emphasised, is a direct implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reflecting unwavering political leadership support aimed at reinforcing Kuwait's security and stability. The event was attended by a host of dignitaries, including Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Pilot Sabah Al-Jaber, senior leaders from the military and administrative sectors, and representatives from oversight and regulatory bodies such as the Government Performance Follow-up Agency, the Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), and the Audit Bureau.

<https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-unveils-defense-strategic-plan-2025-2030-to-strengthen-national-security/>

## **Lebanon**

### **Lebanon warns Hamas against attacks threatening nation's security**

Al-Jazeera, May 2, 2025

Lebanon's top security body has warned the Palestinian group Hamas against using the

country's territory for acts that could undermine national security, after rocket fire towards Israel led to counterstrikes. The Higher Defence Council issued the warning on Friday as Lebanon faces growing United States pressure to disarm groups outside state control, following a 14-month war between Israel and the armed Lebanese group Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas. Lebanese authorities are also trying to establish their authority throughout the country, particularly in the south near the border with Israel. Israel has violated the US-brokered November 2024 truce agreement on a near-daily basis, according to Lebanese authorities, including three air attacks on the capital Beirut. In a statement, the council headed by President Joseph Aoun said Lebanon must not be used as a launchpad for instability or be dragged into unnecessary wars. It added that "the utmost measures and necessary procedures will be taken to put a definitive end to any act that violates Lebanese sovereignty." Aoun, who previously served as army commander, has pledged to bring all weapons in the country under the state's authority, but has admitted that disarming Hezbollah, which the US has been pressuring Lebanon to do, is a "delicate" matter.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/2/lebanon-warns-hamas-against-attacks-threatening-nations-security>

## **Oman**

### **Can Russia convert closer relations with Oman into Iran nuclear talks leverage?**

The New Arab, May 1, 2025

From 21-22 April, Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik travelled to Russia for a state visit. During his meeting with President Vladimir

Putin, Sultan Haitham agreed to bolster Oman-Russia investment cooperation and discussed the pathway to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. After expressing support for a two-state solution that recognised East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital, Putin and Sultan Haitham called for a "full withdrawal of occupying forces from the Gaza Strip and all other Palestinian territories". The cordial spirit of Sultan Haitham's engagement with Putin reflected Oman and Russia's strengthening bilateral partnership and shared positions on critical regional issues. It also had broader strategic significance for the security of the Gulf region. As Oman is the primary dialogue facilitator between the US and Iran, Putin spoke extensively with Sultan Haitham about regulating Iran's nuclear program. Putin aide Yuri Ushakov acknowledged these discussions and offered Russia's assistance in brokering a nuclear deal. While Russia has limited leverage and capacity to influence the US-Iran nuclear talks, it nonetheless showcases its enduring aspirations for great power status in the Middle East.

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/could-growing-russia-oman-ties-impact-iran-nuclear-talks>

### **Oman-mediated Iran-U.S. nuclear talks postponed over 'Technical and Logistical' issues**

Nigar Bayramli

Caspian News, May 2, 2025

The fourth round of indirect nuclear talks between Iran and the United States – mediated by Oman and originally scheduled for May 3 in Rome – has been postponed. "Together with Omani and U.S.

interlocutors, we have decided to postpone the 4th round of talks for logistical and technical reasons. On Iran's part, there is no change in our determination to secure a negotiated solution," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X on May 1. "In fact, we are more determined than ever to achieve a just and balanced deal: guaranteeing an end to sanctions, and creating confidence that Iran's nuclear program will forever remain peaceful while ensuring that Iranian rights are fully respected," he added. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce stated that the meeting's date and venue had never been decided. "We expect another round of talks that will take place in the near future," she told reporters. The delay comes amid heightened tensions following the U.S. State Department's announcement of new sanctions on seven entities in the UAE, Türkiye, and Iran, accused of facilitating trade in Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products. "The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East, advance its nuclear program, and support its terrorist partners and proxies," the department said in a statement.

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/oman-mediated-iran-us-nuclear-talks-postponed-over-technical-and-logistical-issues-2025-5-2-0/>

### **Round four of talks in Oman: Will this be Iran's nuclear breakthrough?**

Shafaq News, May 10, 2025

The fourth round of indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States—originally scheduled for May 3 in Rome—has been rescheduled May 11,

2025, in Muscat, Oman. While Omani officials cited “logistical reasons” for the change, Iranian sources described it as symptomatic of deeper strains, pointing to “conflicting positions” and Washington’s alleged attempts to revise parts of the agreed framework. Between February and April, three rounds of talks were held in Oman and Italy, moving from preliminary exchanges to more substantive discussions focused on nuclear-related issues. “The first round was just breaking the ice,” explained a European diplomat involved in the negotiations. “By the third, we began to see the outlines of a potential deal—provided both sides have the necessary political flexibility.” Iranian negotiators described the progress as “cautious,” noting steps forward on verification mechanisms and the sequencing of sanctions relief. However, core disputes remain, particularly concerning Iran’s missile program and its broader regional posture. Tehran has repeatedly maintained that such issues fall outside the scope of the current negotiations. “No sovereign nation negotiates its deterrence capabilities under duress,” stated Reza Talebnia, spokesperson for Iran’s Defense Ministry.

<https://shafaq.com/en/Report/Round-four-of-talks-in-Oman-Will-this-be-Iran-s-nuclear-breakthrough>

## **Qatar**

### **Iran’s FM visits Saudi Arabia, Qatar before nuclear talks with US in Oman**

Al-Jazeera, May 10, 2025

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar for consultations in the run-up to the fourth round of indirect nuclear talks with the

United States, which will take place in Oman. The future direction of Iran’s nuclear programme, its enrichment of uranium, and sanctions relief remain the key issues. Speaking later in Doha, Araghchi said that if the US’s goal is to deprive Iran of its nuclear rights, Tehran will not back down from “any of our rights”. Iran insists its programme is for civilian purposes and it has no intention to pursue a nuclear weapon. Araghchi told Al Jazeera in Doha, “I have always said that if the... purpose of a deal is to ...ensure that Iran would never have [a] nuclear weapon that is already granted... and a deal would be at our reach”. “But if there are unrealistic...demands by the other side, then we are going to have problems”, he said. In an interview with Breitbart News on Friday, President Donald Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, who will attend the talks in Oman, said the US would “take [Iran] at their word” that they do not want nuclear weapons, but set out specific conditions for verifying such a position.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/10/irans-fm-visits-saudi-arabia-qatar-before-nuclear-talks-with-us-in-oman>

### **Trump says he hopes Qatar can help broker nuclear deal with Iran**

Michael Gabriel Hernandez

Anadolu Agency, May 14, 2025

US President Donald Trump said that he hopes Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani can help broker a nuclear agreement with Iran as negotiations continue amid what Trump described as a “perilous situation.” Addressing al-Thani during a state dinner in Doha, Trump said he hopes “you can help me with the Iran situation,



because it's a perilous situation, and we want to do the right thing," lauding the Qatari leader for assistance he has been providing as Trump seeks to broker a new pact. "I hope the Iranian leaders understand that what you're doing, really what you're doing for them is a big favor, your prime minister, your great leader, right here on my left has been helping so much, and they respect them, and they listen to them. They have to get moving. We both understand. They have to make that decision. Is their decision," Trump said at a state dinner in Doha hosted by the Qatari emir. "I just hope Iran realises what a good friend they have right here. And in a certain sense, I guess I'm a good friend, because a lot of people would rather have me take a much more harsh road. But I know that if we can avoid that road, that would be a great thing. I'd like to do that," he added. The negotiations between Iran and the US, primarily focused on Iran's nuclear program, started last month with Omani mediation amid an escalation of tensions.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/trump-says-he-hopes-qatar-can-help-broker-nuclear-deal-with-iran/3568176>

## Saudi Arabia

### Why are the US and Saudi Arabia discussing a civil nuclear deal?

Times of Israel May 8, 2025

Saudi Arabia and the United States are discussing a deal to cooperate on the kingdom's ambitions to develop a civil nuclear industry, talks that have long been complicated by regional politics and concerns over weapons proliferation. As the world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia may not seem an obvious candidate

for nuclear power, but it aims to reduce carbon emissions and free up crude for export under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 economic plan. The US Energy Information Administration said last year that 68 percent of Saudi electricity was generated by burning gas and 32% by burning oil, with 1.4 million barrels a day of crude being used for power generation during the peak month of June. Atomic power could displace some of that, including for energy-intensive water desalination and air conditioning, allowing the kingdom to make more money from oil sales.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/why-are-the-us-and-saudi-arabia-discussing-a-civil-nuclear-deal/>

### Under Trump, Saudi civil nuclear talks delinked from Israel recognition, report says

Middle East Monitor, May 9, 2025

The United States is no longer demanding Saudi Arabia normalise ties with Israel as a condition for progress on its civil nuclear programme, two sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit next week. Dropping the demand that Saudi Arabia establish diplomatic relations with the occupation state of Israel would be a major concession by Washington. Under former President Joe Biden, nuclear talks were an element of a wider US-Saudi deal tied to Riyadh's goal of a defence treaty with Washington. The kingdom has repeatedly said it would not recognise Israel without the establishment of a Palestinian state, frustrating the Biden administration's attempts to expand the Abraham Accords

signed during Trump's first term. Under those accords the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco normalised ties with Israel. Progress towards Saudi recognition of Israel has been halted by fury in Arab countries over the occupation state's genocidal bombing of Gaza. The nuclear talks had also stumbled over Washington's non-proliferation concerns. In a possible sign of a new approach, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said that Saudi Arabia and the United States were on a "pathway" to a civil nuclear agreement when he visited the kingdom in April.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250509-under-trump-saudi-civil-nuclear-talks-delinked-from-israel-recognition-report-says/>

### **Nuclear Riddle in \$1 Trillion US-Saudi Deal**

Alwaght News, May 14, 2025

While on the first day of Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia a strategic cooperation pact was signed between the two countries, in a considerable development, according to Reuters citing American sources, Washington set the precondition of Saudi normalisation with Israeli regime as a prerequisite for progress in the negotiations on nuclear cooperation with the Arab kingdom. According to informed sources, abandoning the normalisation precondition is interpreted as the grand privilege by the White House, especially compared to the strict stance of the previous US administration that tied nuclear cooperation with the Saudis to normalisation and signing of a defence pact. Although putting on the back burner the precondition for normalisation can pave the way for

progress of negotiations with Saudi Arabia, Reuters, citing some experts, reported that reaching an agreement between Riyadh and Washington remains elusive given the challenges related to internal uranium enrichment and security guarantees. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the region to see what the "good news" Trump promised to happen during his tour to the region will be.

[http://alwaght.net/en/News/265360/Nuclear-Riddle-in-\\$1-Trillion-US-Saudi-Deal](http://alwaght.net/en/News/265360/Nuclear-Riddle-in-$1-Trillion-US-Saudi-Deal)

### **Syria**

#### **From rubble to rebirth: A model for Syria's reconstruction**

Mahmood Alhosain

Atlantic Council, May 8, 2025

Almost six months have passed since Bashar al-Assad's regime fell in Syria. The most notable event of this transitional phase was the establishment of a new Syrian government in late March 2025, consisting of twenty-three ministers from different backgrounds. The new government has inherited the aftermath of more than five decades of authoritarian rule, compounded by the devastating consequences of nearly fourteen years of armed conflict. In addition, Syria continues to grapple with the impact of harsh international sanctions, which were imposed in response to the al-Assad regime's widespread human rights violations. These challenges have rendered Syria a fragile state, with its institutions on the verge of total collapse. However, the fall of the dictatorial regime and the formation of a new government offer an opportunity to begin rebuilding state institutions. Whether this new Damascus can seize this opportunity relies on four key

pillars: achieving security and political stability, fostering inclusive political participation, establishing justice as a precondition for sustainable peace, and lifting sanctions to prevent the resurgence of violence.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/from-rubble-to-rebirth-a-model-for-syrias-reconstruction/>

## Türkiye

### **Turkish Navy Commander confirms plan to develop nuclear-powered submarines after actual Reis-class**

Army Recognition, May 1, 2025

As reported by TurDef on May 1, 2025, in an interview with Warships International Fleet Review, Admiral Ercüment Tatlıoğlu, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, has declared: "We will also take a crucial step towards constructing nuclear-powered submarines, essential for our long-term submarine deterrence capability and vision of being a mid-scale power with global influence." The statement was made in the context of Türkiye's broader naval development plans and ongoing submarine construction programs at Gölcük Shipyard. The foundation for these plans is being developed in parallel with Türkiye's civilian nuclear energy program. The Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant, currently under construction in Mersin Province, is being built by Russia's state-owned Rosatom under a build-own-operate (BOO) model. The facility includes four VVER-1200 pressurised water reactors, each with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts. Construction began in 2018. The first unit is expected to become operational in 2025, and the remaining units are scheduled for

completion by 2028. Once fully operational, the plant is projected to meet approximately 10% of Türkiye's total electricity demand. The BOO model has raised concerns within NATO circles due to the facility's full foreign ownership and its proximity to strategic sites such as the Incirlik Air Base and NATO's ballistic missile defense radar at Kürecik. Turkish authorities have contingency plans to assume control of the plant in scenarios where national security considerations require such measures.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/turkish-navy-commander-confirms-plan-to-develop-nuclear-powered-submarines-after-actual-reis-class>

### **Turkish president says power generation from Akkuyu Nuclear Plant to start by year's end**

Gizem Nisa Cebi and Serdar Dincel

Anadolu Agency, May 2, 2025

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced Friday a major step forward in the country's energy sector and its first nuclear power plant. "By the end of this year, we will begin trial production and deliver the first electricity from Akkuyu (Nuclear Power Plant)," Erdogan said at the Istanbul Natural Resources Summit. With the completion of the other reactors, the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is expected to operate at full capacity in 2028, he stated. The president emphasised Türkiye's role in addressing global energy security, particularly in light of Europe's ongoing energy challenges. "We have undertaken numerous initiatives to contribute to regional energy security in order to help ease the energy crisis faced by European

countries," Erdogan said. "Türkiye's emergence as a safe haven during Europe's energy crises is by no means a coincidence," he added. The president also signaled the final stages of the ambitious project, which began in 2017: "The construction of the first reactor of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is nearing completion." In addition to nuclear advances, Erdogan also touched on the country's resource efforts abroad. "We aim to begin the first production this year at one of the gold fields in Niger for which we obtained a license," he said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkish-president-says-power-generation-from-akkuyu-nuclear-plant-to-start-by-years-end/3555182>

## United Arab Emirates

### US Approves \$1.4B Weapons Sale to UAE

The Defence Post, May 13, 2025

US officials said Monday the State Department has authorised the sale of \$1.4 billion worth of military aircraft and equipment to the United Arab Emirates, ahead of President Donald Trump's visit this week. The proposed sale to the Gulf state involves six CH-47F Chinook helicopters and other equipment for \$1.32 billion that would "support the foreign policy and national security of the United States," officials from the State Department Bureau of Political-Military Affairs said in a statement. "The UAE will use these assets in search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian support, and counterterrorism operations," they said. "The United Arab Emirates is a vital US partner for political stability and economic progress in the

Middle East." Trump is scheduled to visit the oil-rich states of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE this week to discuss diplomatic needs on Gaza and Iran, along with major business deals that could touch on anything from defence and aviation to energy and artificial intelligence. In addition to the helicopters, the State Department has approved the sale of \$130 million in F-16 fighter jet components. In a separate release, State Department officials said the F-16 parts would improve the UAE's "ability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity to meet its national defence requirements."

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/05/13/us-weapons-sale-uae/>

### Iran proposes partnership with UAE and Saudi Arabia to enrich uranium

First Channel News, May 14, 2025

Iran has floated the idea of a consortium of Middle Eastern countries – including Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – to enrich uranium, in a effort to overcome US objections to its continued enrichment programme, The Guardian reports. The proposal is seen as a way of locking Gulf states into supporting Iran's position that it should be allowed to retain enrichment capabilities. Tehran views the proposal as a concession, since it would be giving neighbouring states access to its technological knowledge and making them stakeholders in the process. It is not clear if Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian foreign minister, made the proposal in relatively brief three-hour talks with the US in Oman on Sunday, the fourth set of such talks, but the proposal is reportedly circulating in Tehran. After the talks, Araghchi flew to

Dubai where he spoke to the UAE's foreign minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE currently does not enrich uranium for its own nuclear programme. The consortium would be based on Iranian facilities with enrichment returned to the 3.67% levels set out in the original 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers, which Donald Trump unilaterally ended in 2018.

<https://www.1lurer.am/en/2025/05/14/Iran-proposes-partnership-with-UAE-and-Saudi-Arabia-to-enrich-uranium/1312991>

## Yemen

### Israel bombs Yemen's Hodeidah port after attack near Tel Aviv airport

Al-Jazeera, May 5, 2025

The Israeli military says it has carried out air strikes on Yemen's Hodeidah port and a cement factory, claiming the sites were used to support Houthi operations against Israel. The strikes injured at least 21 people, the Houthi-run health ministry spokesman Anees al-Asbahi said. According to the Israeli army, fighter jets struck infrastructure linked to the Houthis, including a cement factory east of Hodeidah that it described as "an important economic resource" used in building tunnels and military infrastructure. "The Hodeidah seaport serves as a hub for the transfer of Iranian weapons and equipment for military needs," the Israeli army said in a statement. The claim could not be independently verified. Houthi-run Al Masirah TV reported that six Israeli strikes hit Hodeidah's port and blamed both Israel and the United States. Axios quoted a senior US official who said the air raids were coordinated between Israel and the

US. A US defence source told Al Jazeera that "US forces did not participate in the Israeli strikes on Yemen today" but did not deny nonlethal support may have been provided.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/5/israel-bombs-yemens-hodeidah-port-after-attack-near-tel-aviv>

### Yemen launches fresh missile attack on Israel

Mehr News, May 14, 2025

The Yemeni Army on Wednesday morning carried out a fresh missile attack on the Israeli-occupied territories of Palestine. The Israeli regime's home front confirmed a missile attack from Yemen on occupied Palestine. It added that Yemen targeted Israel with a ballistic missile. Reports suggest that all flights at Ben Gurion Airport were suspended after Yemen's missile attack. Sirens also went off in the occupied lands following the attack. The Israeli military, while confirming the Yemeni missile attack on the occupied territories, claimed that it had intercepted the missile. The Yemeni Army is yet to comment on the issue.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/231797/Yemen-launches-fresh-missile-attack-on-Israel-VIDEOS>



# NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

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