

# Iran – Heightened Conflict Risks

October 3, 2025

## Summary

Tensions between Iran and Israel remain at their peak following June's Twelve-Day War, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,100 Iranians in Israeli strikes and targeted assassinations. Since then, Iran has executed its 10<sup>th</sup> alleged Israeli spy since the Twelve-Day War, while the European Council reinstated UN economic and military sanctions on Iran on September 28. Both nations continue strengthening their military capabilities and intelligence. On September 24, Iran revealed alleged Israeli nuclear secrets, while Israel enhances missile defences. These actions signal preparations amid fears that the fragile ceasefire may collapse, increasing the risk of renewed conflict.

## Recent events and developments

On October 1, a senior IRGC commander announced that Iran will extend its missile range “to any point deemed necessary” in response to Western demands to limit Tehran’s missile capabilities, which have hindered progress on the nuclear deal. Iran’s current self-imposed 2,000-kilometre range, which is sufficient to reach Israel, is being expanded due to missile launches from eastern provinces post-June. On September 30, Iranian officials emphasised the fragile ceasefire with Israel, suggesting that hostilities could resume. On September 29, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard inspected the Dezful Air Defence Group for combat readiness. Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi followed this by inspecting the Artesh and IRGC naval, commando, and aviation units in Hormozgan Province, confirming full readiness “for a possible future conflict”. These inspections coincided with Iran executing its 10<sup>th</sup> alleged Israeli spy since the Twelve-Day War in June. On September 28, the UK, France, and Germany reactivated UN snapback sanctions targeting Iran’s nuclear and missile sectors. They accused Iran of nuclear escalation, while Iran condemned the sanctions as illegal and threatened retaliation, possibly reconsidering its Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations. On September 27, Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian said that the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) had instructed military and civilian officials to designate successors, ensuring governance continuity in the event of leadership disruption. However, SNSC denied giving this order. On September 24, Iranian state media broadcast a documentary claiming to reveal confidential Israeli nuclear program documents, and naming 189 Israeli nuclear scientists and specialists. However, some of the information was already publicly available, and the claims remain independently unverified. These developments follow the Twelve-Day War in June, when Israeli strikes killed over 1,100 in Iran, targeting nuclear and military sites, while Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks on Israeli cities and infrastructure.

## Impact assessment

The ongoing Iran-Israel tensions deeply affect security and business operations in the region, with significant implications for our clients. The renewed UN sanctions have increased economic pressure, with the currency hitting a historic low on September 30 and inflation above 40%. This destabilised internal governance and intensified leadership challenges, increasing the likelihood that Iran will adopt a pre-emptive posture, especially driven by fears of surprise strikes by Israel. While a large-scale conflict is not immediately expected, the fragile ceasefire, combined with continuous military preparations from both sides, creates a volatile environment, particularly in sensitive border regions such as Khuzestan. The economic disruption has resulted in declining oil exports and constrained fiscal resources, further undermining economic stability. Meanwhile, the war’s toll on infrastructure necessitates lengthy reconstruction, straining government capacity. Travel disruptions have occurred in the past in major urban centres. Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion Airport has frequently faced closures or heightened security, which has impacted foreign nationals and travellers. Airlines, including Lufthansa, Ryanair, and Qatar Airways, have rerouted or suspended flights to and from regional hubs such as Dubai, Beirut, Amman, and Tehran, contributing to logistical challenges and flight delays during periods of intensified conflicts and missile strikes. Such interruptions affect multinational corporations, diplomatic personnel, NGOs, and journalists operating or transiting through these points. Economic hardship, compounded by the nuclear stalemate, fuels civil unrest in Iran that may sporadically disrupt urban centres like Tehran and Mashhad, potentially impacting local safety and transport. In Israel, areas near conflict zones, including cities like Ashkelon and Sderot, remain vulnerable to missile and drone threats, affecting residents and businesses. Regionally, neighbouring countries such as Jordan and the UAE experience indirect impacts through airspace restrictions and refugee flows, straining resources and complicating operations.

## Advice from Forth Global

- Monitor airline updates closely, particularly those from Lufthansa, Ryanair, and Qatar Airways, which have altered flights around Tehran, Dubai, Beirut, and Amman.
- Expect increased security measures at major airports such as Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv) and Imam Khomeini (Tehran).
- Be vigilant of potential disruptions from civil unrest in Iranian urban centers like Tehran and Mashhad, and missile threats around Israeli cities, including Ashkelon and Sderot.
- Recognise that regional neighbours like the UAE may face indirect impacts influencing operational logistics and transit times.

### Customised advice

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