8 killed, nearly 300 injured as Iranian ballistic missiles strike central Israel, Haifa

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Eight people were killed by Iranian ballistic missiles that slammed into Israeli cities in at least five locations early Monday, and nearly 300 others were injured, as the conflict entered a fourth day.

Four people were killed in Petah Tivka, three in Haifa, and another person in Bnei Brak.

The Health Ministry said 287 people were hospitalized nationwide as a result of the barrage of Iranian missiles. One person was listed in serious condition, and 14 were moderately injured, including two at Schneider Children’s Hospital in Petah Tikvah. The remainder were lightly injured or suffered acute shock.

Two missiles also hit Tel Aviv, causing significant damage to a number of buildings, as well as some injuries.

US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee confirmed in a post to X that the embassy branch in the coastal city was slightly damaged from an impact, but there were no injuries to staff. He said the American embassies and consulates remain closed, with a shelter-in-place order still in effect. The US embassy itself is located in Jerusalem.

Iranian missile barrages have repeatedly targeted the densely populated Tel Aviv metro area and surrounding cities since fighting began on Friday, as well as the Haifa area.

The Israel Defense Forces began airstrikes on Iran’s nuclear and military infrastructure in the early hours of Friday, acting to fight what it says is an immediate and existential threat to Israel from the Iranian nuclear and missile programs.

The campaign, which also included Mossad sabotage operations within Iran, has received support from many Western nations, which have affirmed Israel’s right to defend itself.

Shortly after midnight in the early hours of Monday, the IDF’s Home Front Command alerted the Israeli public to stay close to bomb shelters in the expectation of a missile attack.

Notifications were sent via a cellphone app that gives an early alert of possible attacks, which is generally followed by a second warning that is minutes ahead of sirens, at which point there is around 90 seconds to find shelter.

In the hours that followed, the IDF said it hit surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, an action the military said reduced by half the number of rockets Iran had planned to fire.

Then, just after 4 a.m., sirens went off as Iran fired a barrage at the central and northern regions of the country.

The IDF said that some 40 missiles were fired and that, like in previous barrages, Israeli air defense systems intercepted most of them but some slipped through.

Dozens of drones were also launched at Israel overnight and on Monday morning, but were all intercepted by the Israeli Air Force and Navy, the military said.

Also Monday morning, a ballistic missile launched at Israel by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen fell short outside the country’s borders, the military said. Sirens had sounded in southern Israel.

**Petah Tikva**

Home Front Command official Udi Elbaz told the press that an Iranian missile hit a 20-story building in Petah Tikva, badly damaging its fourth and fifth floors.

“It is important for me to emphasize that in additional buildings we searched, most of the people who were in a protected space were not injured,” he told reporters.

The IDF later clarified that the missile directly hit a bombproof room, which is an area built into modern Israeli buildings that has thicker walls and a blast door to protect against such attacks. Two people who were in one of the safe rooms were killed. The two other fatalities at that location were not in a protected space despite the sirens.

**Haifa**

Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav confirmed that three people were killed in a barrage targeting the northern city.

Yahav told Channel 12 news the three were working at a facility “that’s very important to us in the area, which we would be happy if it closed and left.”

Rescuers had attempted for hours to reach the three missing people, who were buried under rubble during the attack on the northern city. A fire also broke out at the location, complicating rescue operations.

Yahav said several homes and other buildings in the city suffered extensive damage, but only four people were hospitalized with light injuries.

Israel Police said officers were sent to clear international media journalists who have been broadcasting live missile impacts in the Haifa area.

“Coastal District police vehicles set out to conduct a search and handle the incident,” a spokesperson said.

Haifa is home to a number of sensitive facilities, including an oil refinery, a major port, and a naval base.

**Bnei Brak**

In Bnei Brak, a town east of Tel Aviv, the body of a man in his 80s was pulled out of a building that was damaged by a missile, authorities said on Monday.

The impact caused significant damage to a number of other buildings in the area.

At impact sites, rescuers helped evacuate hundreds of people from destroyed and damaged residential buildings.

The Magen David Adom emergency service reported that at one of the locations, which caused major damage to residential buildings along a street, a four-day-old baby was found in a destroyed building, but suffering no injuries.

Medics kept the child safe in an ambulance until his mother was extracted from a building about an hour later.

In addition to the missiles, eight drones launched at Israel from Iran were intercepted by Israeli Navy missile boats overnight, the IDF said, adding that it had used a new air defense system for the first time.

According to the military, it intercepted some of the drones using LRAD interceptor missiles, part of the BARAK MX air defense system, which were deployed to the Navy’s Sa’ar 6-class corvettes.

Since the start of the conflict on Friday, the IDF said, the Navy has intercepted some 25 drones heading to Israel, mostly from Iran.

The IAF has shot down around 100 other drones with fighter jets and helicopters.

Defense Minister Israel Katz threatened that Tehran’s residents would suffer in retaliation for the Iranian missile strikes that have caused widespread damage to Israeli residential areas.

“The arrogant dictator of Tehran has become a scared murderer who fires at Israel’s civilian home front in order to deter the IDF from continuing to carry out attacks that are destroying his capabilities,” Katz said in a statement, apparently referring to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

“The residents of Tehran will pay the price, and soon,” he vowed, in what appeared to be a threat to target Iranian civilians in kind.

He later clarified that “there is no intention to physically harm the residents of Tehran, as the murderous dictator does to the citizens of Israel.”

“The residents of Tehran will be forced to bear the cost of the dictatorship and evacuate their homes from areas where it will be necessary to strike regime targets and security infrastructure in Tehran,” he said.

**350 missiles fired since Friday**

Iran has launched some 350 ballistic missiles at Israel since Friday, the vast majority of which were intercepted, according to IDF statistics released Monday.

In all, 24 people have been killed in Iran’s ballistic missile attacks since Friday.

That number is expected to rise, as one person is still missing and presumed dead in a missile strike on a building in Bat Yam over the weekend.

Iran’s barrages consist of some 30-60 missiles each, according to the IDF.

Military officials said that Tehran has sought to fire more — hundreds at a time — but Israeli Air Force strikes on ballistic missile launchers in Iran are disrupting the attacks.

In each barrage, 5-10 percent of the missiles “leak” through and impact Israel, officials said. This includes missiles that the IDF says it does not try to shoot down “according to protocol,” allowing them to strike open areas without causing damage to any critical infrastructure, as well as missiles it failed to intercept which hit urban areas and caused casualties and damage.

The military has routinely emphasized that, as good as Israel’s multilayered air defenses are, they are not hermetic. It has urged Israelis to heed Home Front Command instructions to take shelter in safe rooms and bomb shelters when incoming missile warnings are received.

Most of Iran’s ballistic missile fire has been aimed at Tel Aviv and Haifa — which are densely populated — and to a lesser degree, the Beersheba area. This means that the few missiles that are not intercepted are likely to cause harm.