

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 9, 2026 (Adar 19, 5786)**



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## **Israel; One Killed, Two Wounded in Central Israel Following Iranian Missile Barrage**

- *Thousands reportedly gather in Tehran in support of new supreme leader*
- *Security increased at Jewish institutions after explosion damages Belgian synagogue*
  - *Mayor of Arab town moderately wounded in suspected criminal shooting*
  - *Israel bracing for Iran to ramp up missile launches, IDF officials say*
- *IDF orders mass southern Lebanon evacuation after 32 reported killed in Sunday strikes*
  - *Israeli settlers kill three Palestinians in West Bank, health officials say*

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***IDF Planning for at Least 1–2 More Weeks of Iran Ops; Over 5,000 Bombs Dropped;*** The Israeli military is planning for at least one to two more weeks of operations against Iran, aiming to strike thousands more regime targets in a campaign of systematic degradation. As of Wednesday, March 5, the Israeli Air Force had dropped more than 5,000 bombs during strikes in Iran since the conflict began on Saturday, March 1. IAF fighter jets continue to deepen air superiority throughout Iranian airspace, with particular emphasis on the Tehran area. Israel's stated goal is the comprehensive dismantling of the Iranian regime's military infrastructure. More than 100 fighter jets carried out airstrikes against a compound in eastern Tehran on Wednesday, dropping over 250 bombs in a single wave. The IDF struck the headquarters of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC Quds Force, the intelligence directorate, the Basij paramilitary force, and Iran's cyber unit. An armed Iranian ballistic missile launcher in the Kermanshah area of western Iran was also destroyed by an Israeli F-35I fighter jet. The headquarters were struck while Iranian personnel responsible for managing terror operations were operating from them. Israeli military officials described the conflict as the first full-scale joint military campaign between Israel and the United States, following months of extensive joint planning. Joint coordination cells are operating in both Israel and the US, synchronizing intelligence, targets, and defense measures. More than 1,000 American troops are stationed in Israel, and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir has been speaking daily with US CENTCOM chief Adm. Brad Cooper. *(TOI/VFI News)*

***Chief of Staff: 'We Suppressed Iran's Ballistic Missile Array, Moving to Next Phase'*** IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir delivered his first public statement on Thursday, March 5, since the beginning of Operation Roaring Lion, declaring that Israel has additional surprise moves planned in its campaign against Iran. Zamir stated that after completing the surprise opening blow and establishing air superiority, the military is moving to the next stage. This phase will intensify strikes against the foundations of the Iranian regime and its military capabilities. Zamir revealed that in the opening strike carried out on Saturday, February 28, dozens of munitions were dropped on three targets, eliminating approximately 40 senior Iranian regime figures in just 40 seconds, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Israeli Air Force pilots have carried out 2,500 strikes and dropped more than 6,000 munitions so far. Within 24 hours, IAF pilots paved an air corridor to Tehran, destroying about 80 percent of Iran's air defense systems and achieving near-complete air superiority over Iranian skies. The Chief of Staff noted that more than 60 percent of Iran's ballistic missile launchers have been neutralized or destroyed, calling it a significant achievement that reduces damage to the Israeli home front and saves lives. Zamir also addressed the northern front, stating that Hezbollah made a strategic mistake by joining the campaign and is paying a heavy price. IDF forces have been ordered to move forward and deepen the line of control along the Lebanese border while positioning at key points in southern Lebanon. *(INN/VFI News)*

***Qatari Jets Downed Iranian Bombers Minutes from US Base;*** Two Iranian bombers were shot down by Qatari fighter jets shortly before they could reach targets near al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military installation in the Middle East, which typically houses about 10,000 American service members.

The incident occurred on Monday, March 3, when Iran's Revolutionary Guard dispatched two Soviet-era Su-24 tactical bombers toward the base and toward Ras Laffan, a key Qatari natural gas processing facility. The Iranian jets were just two minutes from their targets when they were intercepted. The aircraft were visually identified and photographed carrying bombs and guided munitions. Qatari authorities issued a warning over the radio, but received no response from the Iranian pilots. The bombers had descended to approximately 80 feet in an apparent attempt to evade radar detection, and due to time constraints, they were classified as hostile. A Qatari F-15 then engaged the Iranian planes in aerial combat and shot them down. The Iranian aircraft crashed into Qatar's territorial waters, and a search is underway for the crews. US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine confirmed the incident at a Pentagon briefing on Wednesday, March 5. The incident marked the first time Iran used manned aircraft to target a neighboring country since the elimination of Ali Khamenei and the first time the Qatari air force has engaged in air-to-air combat. Qatar's Prime Minister described the attack as "escalatory" and showing "no genuine desire" by Iran to de-escalate. (*INN/VFI News*)

***In First: Iran Attacks Azerbaijan;*** The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry confirmed on Thursday, March 5, that two drones launched from Iranian territory struck the international airport in the Nakhchivan exclave, marking the first direct Iranian attack on Azerbaijan since the launch of Operation Roaring Lion on Saturday, February 28. Two people were injured, and airport infrastructure sustained damage. The strike targeted a civilian-military airport located approximately 10 kilometers from the Iranian border. In response, Baku summoned Iran's ambassador for a formal reprimand, stressing that Azerbaijan reserves the right to respond to the attack. Analysts say the strike was likely deliberate, as Azerbaijan is considered one of Israel's closest security partners in the region. For years, extensive security cooperation between the two countries has been well documented, with Azerbaijan relying heavily on Israeli-made military equipment. The attack on Azerbaijan is part of a broader pattern of Iranian strikes against multiple nations since the start of the conflict. Iran has fired on Israel, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Bahrain, Oman, and now Azerbaijan, raising alarm that Tehran is deliberately widening the war to impose costs on the US-led coalition. The drone strikes on Nakhchivan have further strained relations between Baku and Tehran, already tense over allegations of Israeli intelligence activity along their shared border. (*INN/VFI News*)

***Iran's 'Death by 1,000 Cuts' Strategy Backfires as US Refuses 'Nuclear Roulette';*** Former US special operations soldier Brett Velicovich said on Thursday, March 5, that Iran's longstanding strategy of incrementally eroding its enemies' forces has become ineffective and that the United States has signaled it will no longer engage in "nuclear roulette" with the Iranian regime. Iran's campaign of attacks across the Middle East and beyond has struck at least 12 countries, raising concerns the regime could be intentionally prolonging the conflict. Velicovich described Iran's approach as launching drones, arming proxy militias, and threatening shipping lanes in a pattern of gradual escalation designed to exhaust its adversaries. Velicovich argued that this strategy only works when the United States hesitates, and that the current administration has made clear it will not abandon its red lines. He emphasized that US forces are prepared to respond wherever American interests are threatened and are actively monitoring the entire strategic landscape. His comments came as US forces continued launching precision strikes on Iranian missile infrastructure across the country. Rather than destabilizing its neighbors, Tehran's attempt at regional escalation has instead unified adversaries and triggered a more forceful coalition response. Iran has fired on Israel, Turkey, Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Cyprus, and Bahrain, among others. National security analysts noted that the seemingly erratic strikes support Tehran's strategy of widening the war and forcing adversaries to deplete limited supplies, but this approach appears to be accelerating unified opposition rather than fracturing it. (*FOX/VFI News*)

***Tucker Carlson's Baseless Conspiracy Blames Iran War on Chabad Movement;*** New anti-Semitic conspiracy theories surfaced this week after the outbreak of the Iran war, with far-right commentator Tucker Carlson leading his Wednesday, March 4, show with baseless claims that the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement is behind the conflict. Carlson alleged that Chabad is pushing for the destruction of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, framing the military campaign as a “global religious war” orchestrated by Jews. The Secure Community Network, a US Jewish community security group, issued a bulletin warning of potential threats to American Jews amid a surge of anti-Semitic rhetoric online. US President Donald Trump dismissed Carlson’s claims, stating that “Tucker has lost his way” and “is not MAGA.” The Republican Jewish Coalition condemned the remarks as “disgusting,” affirming that President Trump and his administration reject the accusations entirely. Rabbi Yaacov Behrman, a Chabad community leader in Brooklyn, called the claims “a dangerous blood libel,” emphasizing that Chabad’s focus is on encouraging good deeds and bringing goodness into the world. Chabad-Lubavitch is a global Hasidic Jewish movement known for its warm outreach efforts and community centers worldwide; it does not function as a political advocacy organization. Carlson’s claims were based on patches worn by Israeli soldiers depicting the Temple, which were produced by the unaffiliated Temple Institute in Jerusalem and have no connection to Chabad. The rhetoric has raised serious concerns about the physical safety of Jewish institutions, particularly after a deadly attack on a Chabad Hanukkah celebration in Sydney in December and a vehicle ramming at Chabad’s Brooklyn headquarters in January. *(TOI/VFI News)*

***UNHRC Censors Human Rights Expert Who Didn't Toe Anti-Israel Line;*** The United Nations Human Rights Council cut off a video statement from a human rights expert after she began criticizing UN officials for covering up the use of rape as a weapon of war by Hamas terrorists during and after the October 7 massacre. The incident occurred on Friday, February 27, during a dialogue with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk. Prof. Anne Bayefsky, Director of the Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, was silenced just 45 seconds into her assigned 90-second speaking slot by the Council’s president. Prof. Bayefsky was interrupted after naming Francesca Albanese, Navi Pillay, and Chris Sidoti for covering up Palestinian use of rape as a weapon of war and for trafficking in antisemitism. She also named ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan, who faces allegations of repeated sexual assaults and, she argued, used the arrest warrants against Israeli leaders to deflect attention from those accusations. The Council President, Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro of Indonesia, claimed her remarks were not within the “appropriate framework, terminology and decorum” of the Council. Prof. Bayefsky described the Council as a forum where anti-Semitic speech flows freely while factual criticism of UN officials is silenced. Other speakers were permitted to make unsubstantiated accusations of genocide and starvation against Israel without interruption, while her documented statements were deemed “inflammatory.” She was the only American NGO scheduled to speak at the session and was prevented from completing her remarks. *(INN/VFI News)*

***Mount of Olives Reclaimed in Historic Events;*** In major events held in Jerusalem on February 16 and 17, the State of Israel and world Jewry celebrated the reclamation of the 3,000-year-old Mount of Olives, the historic burial site of more than 150,000 Jews over the ages. The events were sponsored by the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) in conjunction with the Israeli government and the Municipality of Jerusalem. The highlight of the two-day mission was a ceremony marking the completion of the first floor of the Visitor Education Center, which ICHH is building in partnership with national and municipal entities. The mission began with a Town Hall Meeting at the Begin Center, where United States Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee spoke about the vital importance of securing and protecting Har Hazeitim. Israel’s Chief Rabbis, Rabbi Kalman Ber and Rabbi David Yosef, praised ICHH for ending the rampant vandalism that once plagued the site. President Isaac Herzog noted that his own grandfather,

former President Chaim Herzog, is buried on the mountain and declared his full readiness to support the ICHH mission. The Knesset, headed by Speaker Amir Ohana, paused its national schedule to honor ICHH, with more than 20 Members of Knesset and six government ministers in attendance. Since its founding in 2010, ICHH has installed 176 surveillance cameras, established a police substation, erected new fences and gates, and undertaken extensive rehabilitation of the cemetery. The keynote event was the dedication of the first floor of the Visitor Education Center, with the project now advancing to the construction of the second floor. (*INN/VFI News*)



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