



# **The AI Propaganda War: Iran's Digital Battlefield**

A Cyabra report  
March 9, 2026



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Approach

During the first week of the Epic Fury / Roaring Lion conflict, Cyabra identified a large-scale coordinated disinformation campaign promoting pro-Iran narratives across major social media platforms.

## Why This Matters?

The campaign demonstrates how AI-generated media and coordinated networks can rapidly shape global perceptions of military conflict.

By flooding social platforms with fabricated battlefield footage and synchronized messaging, influence actors can distort perceptions of military success and undermine adversaries' credibility.

## Key Findings

1. **Tens of thousands of inauthentic accounts** deployed
2. **37K+ pieces of AI-generated** or manipulated narratives
3. **145M+ views** across platforms
4. **TikTok** responsible for **~72% of reach**



# IRAN-DRIVEN DISINFORMATION THREATENS ONLINE INTEGRITY

On February 28, Israel launched a large-scale military operation targeting Iranian military infrastructure and missile capabilities. Shortly after, the United States became involved, and the **conflict rapidly expanded as additional countries were drawn into the confrontation.**

At the same time, social media became a key battlefield, with **Iran responsible for a significant portion of the content being circulated online.** Platforms were flooded with posts, images, and videos promoting pro-Iran narratives and portraying the country as gaining the upper hand in the conflict. Alongside organic discussions, coordinated campaigns and AI-generated content were widely used to spread disinformation and manipulate public perception of the war.

 <b>37K+</b> CONTENT UNITS PROMOTING IRAN'S NARRATIVE IN THE WAR	 <b>3</b> KEY NARRATIVES IDENTIFIED IN ONLINE DISCUSSIONS	 <b>TikTok</b> PRIMARY PLATFORM FOR DISINFORMATION AMPLIFICATION
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**RISK LEVEL ASSESSMENT**



NO RISK                      LOW RISK                      MODERATE RISK                      HIGH RISK

**High Risk**  
**AI + coordinated accounts = narrative warfare**

 <b>19%</b> INVOLVED IN AMPLIFYING IRAN-ALIGNED DISINFORMATION	 COORDINATED CAMPAIGN DETECTED ON X, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TIKTOK	 <b>18M+</b> POTENTIAL VIEWS GENERATED BY CONTENT FROM FAKE ACCOUNTS
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[Go to Conclusions & Next Steps](#)



## NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# IRAN PROPAGANDA DRIVEN BY THREE KEY NARRATIVES

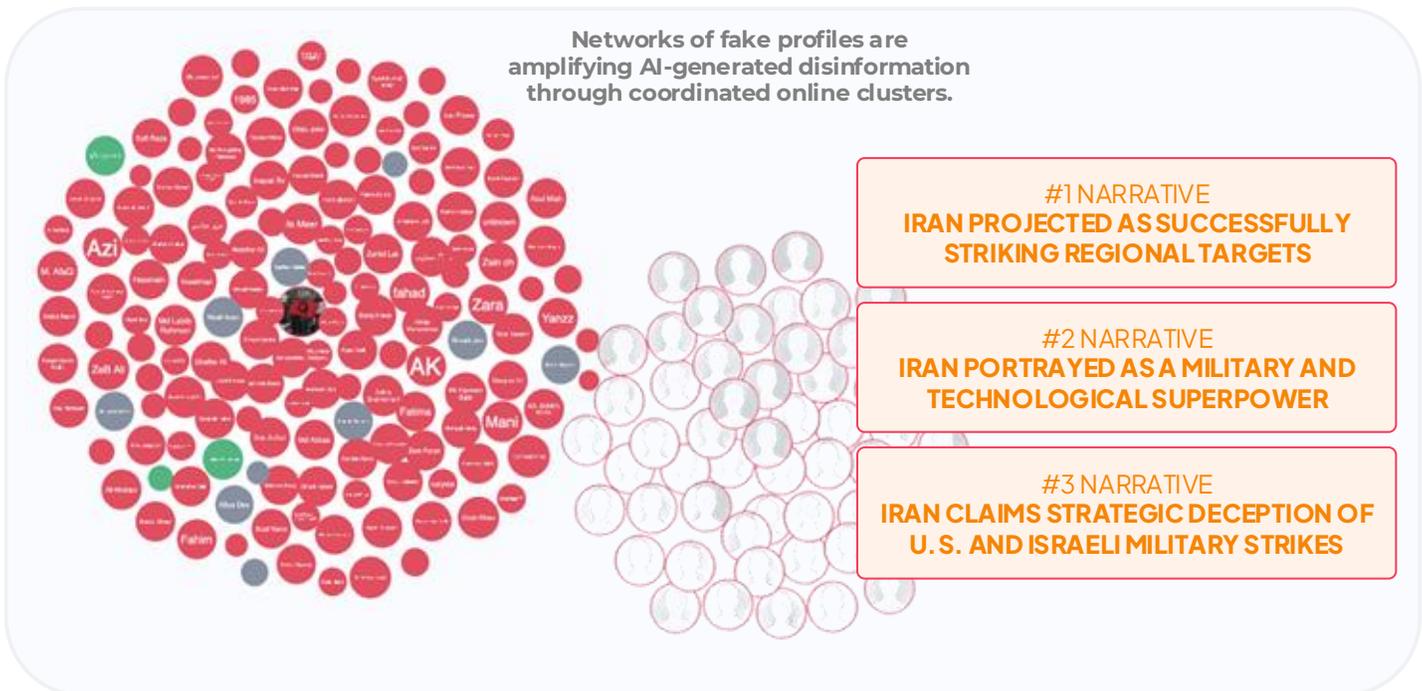
Online discussions surrounding Iran during the ongoing conflict are being significantly influenced by coordinated pro-Iran disinformation campaigns built around three central narratives and executed through AI-generated content, deepfakes and synthetic media.

**This campaign advances a clear propaganda agenda: positioning Iran as the dominant actor in the conflict - technologically advanced, militarily powerful, and prevailing in the ongoing confrontation.**

Through coordinated amplification across social media, this agenda aims to shape public perception and distort the reality of the conflict. The primary narratives identified include:

- Iran is successfully striking military targets across the region
- Iran possesses a powerful army and highly advanced military technology
- Iran successfully deceived the United States and Israel into bombing decoy targets, including mock aircraft installations

Together, these narratives form the core of Iran's online information warfare strategy, leveraging propaganda content to project strength and shape global perception.





## #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

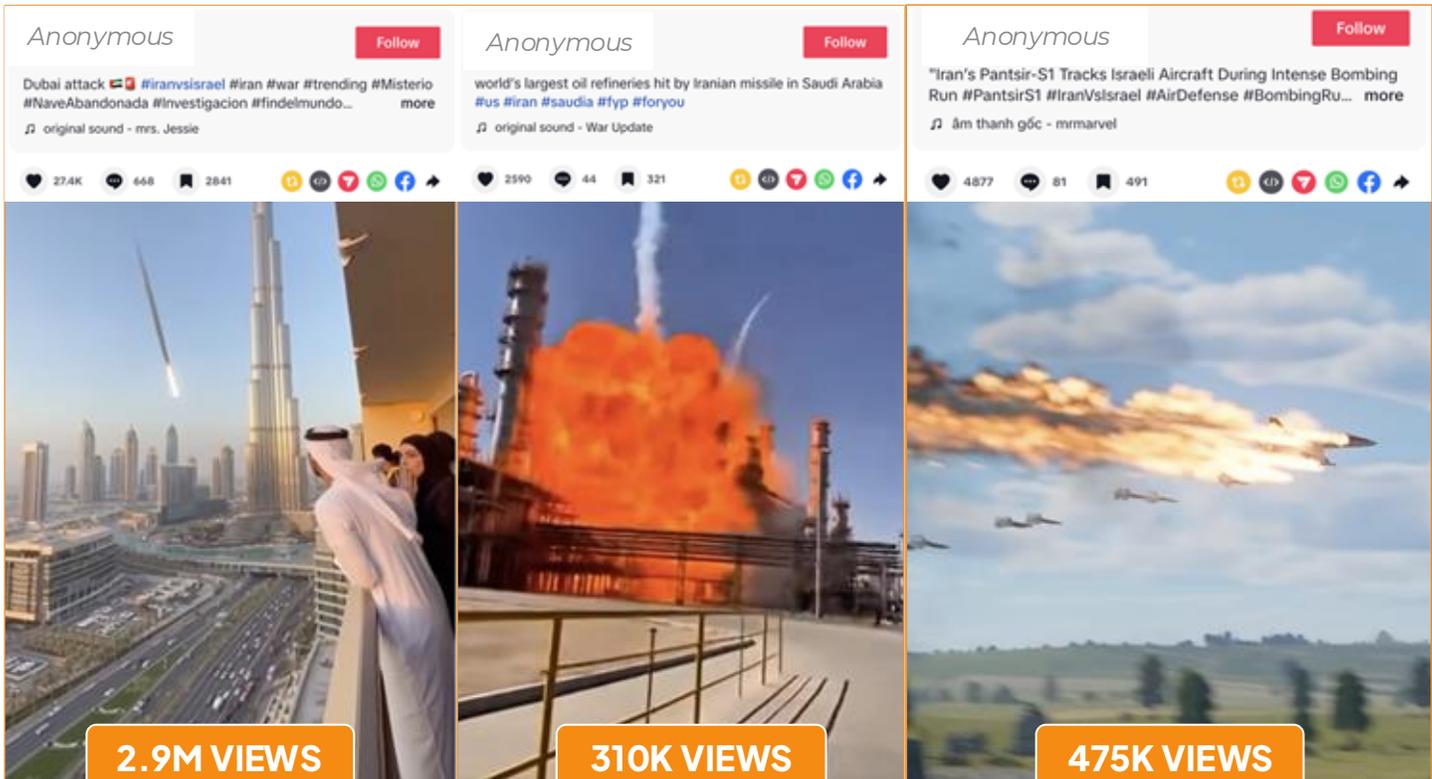
# IRAN PROJECTED AS SUCCESSFULLY STRIKING REGIONAL TARGETS

The pro-Iran disinformation campaign heavily relies on AI-generated deepfake videos depicting **attacks on regional powers** in order to create the perception that Iran is winning.

While some of these deepfakes reference real-world events - such as attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure - the campaign largely **consists of entirely fabricated scenarios** designed to reinforce this propaganda agenda and exaggerate Iran's military success.

These manipulated visuals circulate widely across social media platforms and promote several sub-narratives, including alleged attacks on:

- Israeli cities, ports, and military assets
- U.S. aircraft carriers and military equipment
- The Burj Khalifa in Dubai and other major regional landmarks
- Saudi oil refineries and American assets in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain





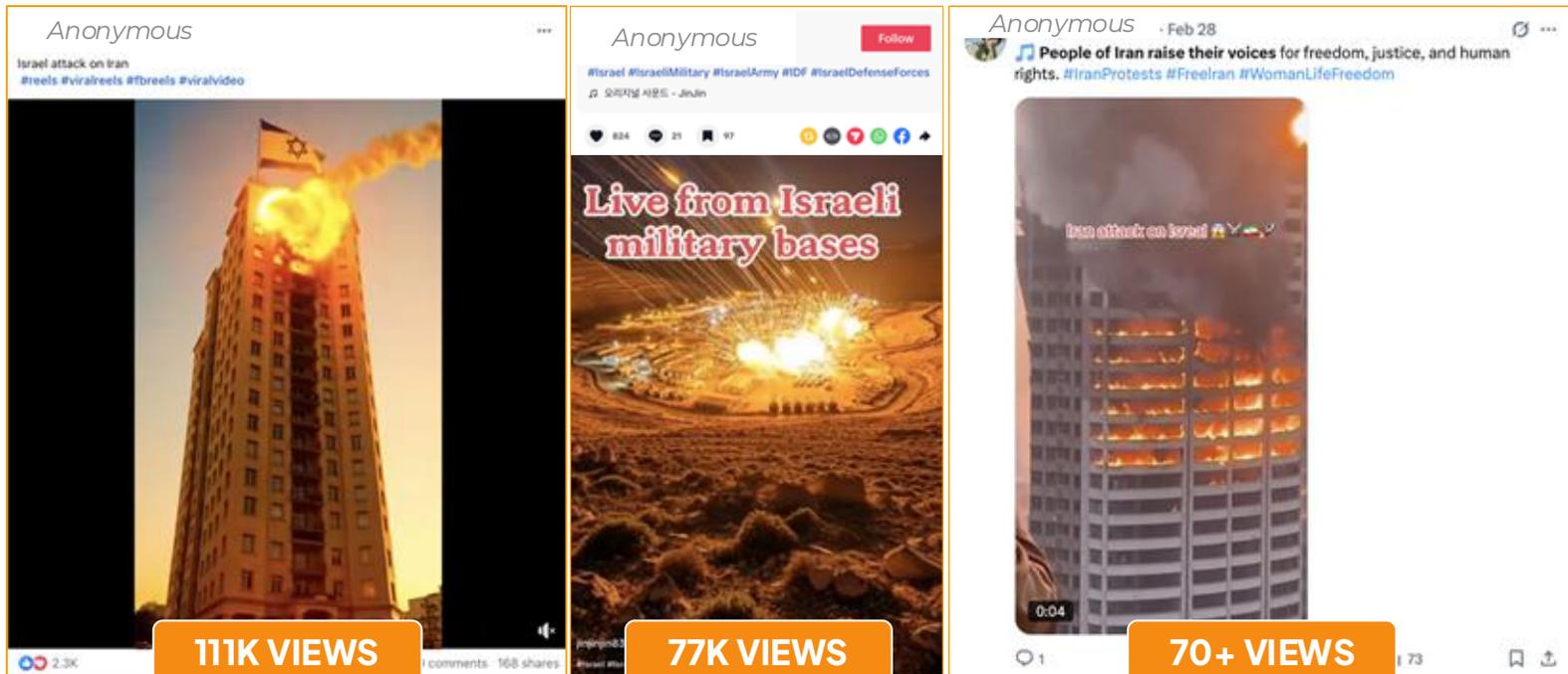
## #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# IRAN PROJECTED AS SUCCESSFULLY STRIKING ISRAEL

**Israel emerges as a central target within this narrative, as the campaign focuses on projecting Iranian military superiority over the country.**

As part of this effort, AI-generated deepfakes frequently depict alleged successful attacks on Israeli military bases, fighter jets, ports, and major cities, reinforcing the perception of Iranian military dominance despite the absence of verified evidence supporting these events.

By circulating deceptive imagery portraying air superiority and battlefield success, the campaign seeks to attract broader international support for Iran by creating the perception that it is the winning side in the conflict.





## #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# IRAN PROJECTED AS SUCCESSFULLY STRIKING THE U.S.

In a similar manner, pro-Iran information warfare also **targets public perceptions of the United States' most powerful military assets**. Particular focus is placed on U.S. aircraft carriers, which have assumed a prominent and symbolic role in the conflict.

AI-generated visuals and manipulated content frequently depict alleged Iranian strikes against these assets, aiming to undermine the perceived strength and deterrence of the U.S. military.

Notably, a **significant portion of this content is distributed in Spanish**, suggesting an effort to reach and influence audiences across Latin America and Spanish-speaking communities online to **impact how the conflict is perceived around the world**.

Anonymous [Follow](#)

video captado por drones cuando destruyen Bases militares de Estados Unidos. por los Iraníes. dios Bendiga a todos 🙏... more  
See translation

🎵 Música de guerra épica - Lepone

Contains AI-generated media

👍 3231 💬 125 📄 267

video captado cuando el Ejército de Iraníes bombardearon la base militar y un barco donde iban los aviones de Guerra de Estados Unidos

Anonymous

video captured by drones when they Destroy U.S. military bases. by the Iranians. god Bless everyone. 🙏  
#viralvideo #guerramundial

See original

Contains AI-generated media

**225K VIEWS**

Anonymous

Iran suffers an attack... [See more](#)

19K

**787K VIEWS**

1.3K shares 787K views



## #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# IRAN PROJECTED AS SUCCESSFULLY STRIKING DUBAI

A third sub-narrative promoted within the Iranian disinformation agenda focuses on alleged **missile and rocket attacks targeting Gulf states, particularly Dubai**. Many of these pieces of content prominently feature the Burj Khalifa, using the globally recognizable landmark to amplify the perceived scale and impact of the attacks.

To increase the credibility of these claims, several videos **impersonate Western vloggers or social media creators allegedly documenting the destruction in real time**. This technique adds a layer of realism to the fabricated events, making the disinformation appear more authentic and therefore more likely to be believed and shared across platforms.

The image displays three screenshots of social media posts from an anonymous user, each showing a different fabricated event with a view count overlay. The first post shows a man with a shocked expression in front of a cityscape at night, with a view count of 224K. The second post shows a cityscape at night with a large explosion or missile strike, with a view count of 311K. The third post shows a large industrial facility with a massive fire or explosion, with a view count of 314K.

Post Content	Views
iranian drone hit burj khalifa dubai #breakingnews #iran #isreal #fyp #viral	224K VIEWS
Iran strike on DXB Dubai airport Iran strike on Dax Dubai. War no solution of problem please Stop war in the...	311K VIEWS
world's largest oil refineries hit by Iranian missile in Saudi Arabia #us #iran #saudia #fyp #foryou	314K VIEWS

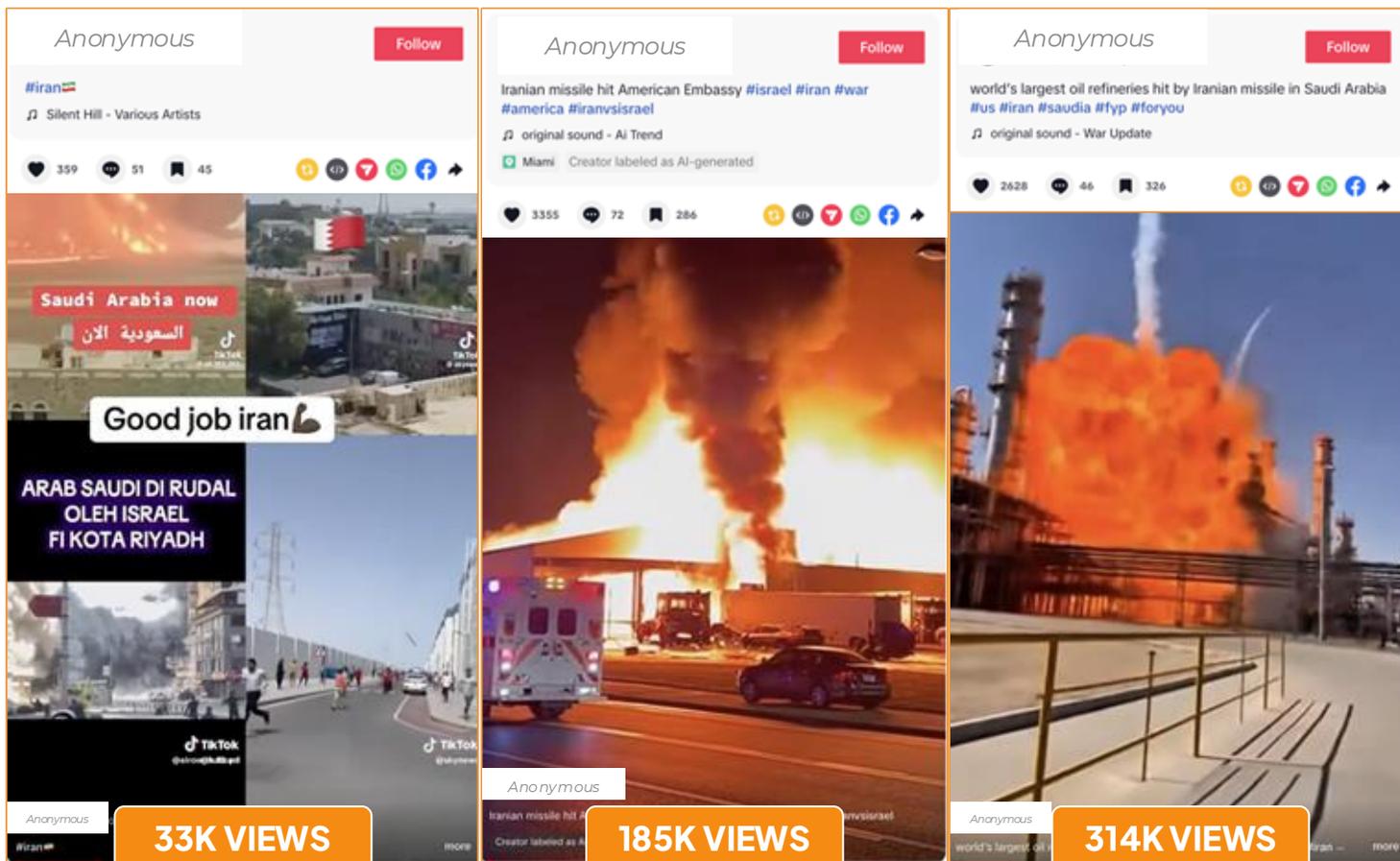


## IRAN PROJECTED AS SUCCESSFULLY STRIKING SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHRAIN

Another focus of this narrative targets Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, where AI-generated videos are widely circulated across social media depicting alleged Iranian strikes.

Many of these fabricated videos portray attacks on **American assets located in the region**, including U.S. embassies, military facilities, and **strategic infrastructure such as Saudi oil refineries**. By showcasing large-scale destruction and dramatic explosions, the content attempts to portray Iran as a dominant regional power capable of striking key Western and Gulf targets.

In several cases, the videos combine AI-generated visuals with real footage, increasing the perceived authenticity of the attacks and making the disinformation more convincing to online audiences.





## #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

### KEY LEADER IN THE #1 NARRATIVE

One of the key accounts driving the first narrative - depicting Iranian attacks on multiple countries - is a **TikTok account which also operates a Facebook account** under the same name.

The profile exhibits behavior commonly associated with coordinated disinformation activity. The account remained dormant for several months before **suddenly becoming active immediately after the outbreak of the conflict**, publishing the viral AI-generated videos.

Notably, the captions used in several posts appear to **include the original AI generation prompts**, suggesting that the videos were produced using generative video tools.

The TikTok account achieved significant reach, with its most **viral video accumulating 2.9 million views**, while the associated Facebook account generated lower virality.



**Active on**  
**2 Platforms**



**Disinformation Posts**  
**44**



**Posts Reach**  
**3.3M Views**

#### Geographic Origin

Claimed Location  
**Los Angeles, California**

Assessed Location  
**Iran**



#### Fake Account

• Key Leader Identified

Followers:	5,664
Likes:	36.5K
Views:	3.3M

Active TikTok Account

Active Facebook Account



# #1 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

## KEY LEADER IN THE #1 NARRATIVE

 *Anonymous*

[Follow](#) [Message](#) [+](#) [↗](#) [⋮](#)

22 Following 5664 Followers 36.5K Likes

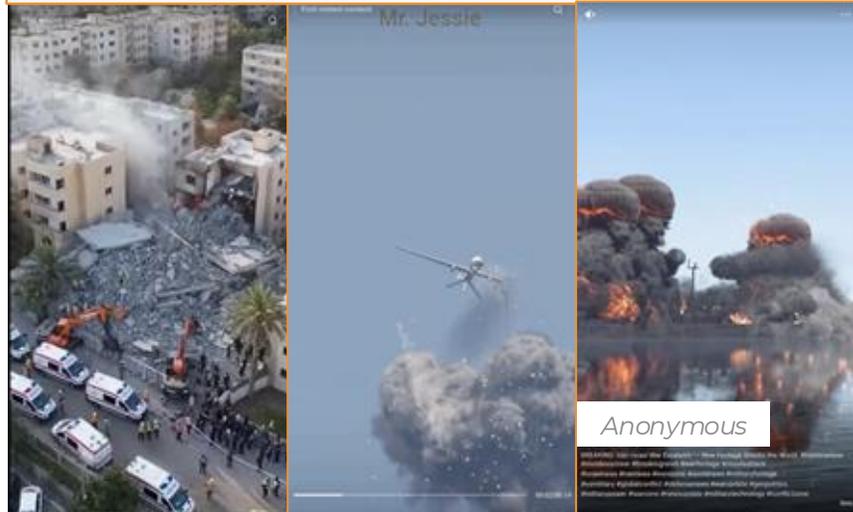
Scream Scene

*Anonymous* [Follow](#)

\_\_\_PROMPT\_9\_\_\_Aerial\_Drone\_View\_\_\_Tel\_Aviv\_After\_Iranian\_Mis  
sile Strikes March 1 2026 Slow cinema

*Anonymous* [Follow](#)

Tel\_Aviv\_Residential\_Building\_Hit\_by\_Iranian\_Missile\_\_March\_1\_\_2  
026\_\_Street\_level\_POV\_footage\_\_dayti





## #2 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

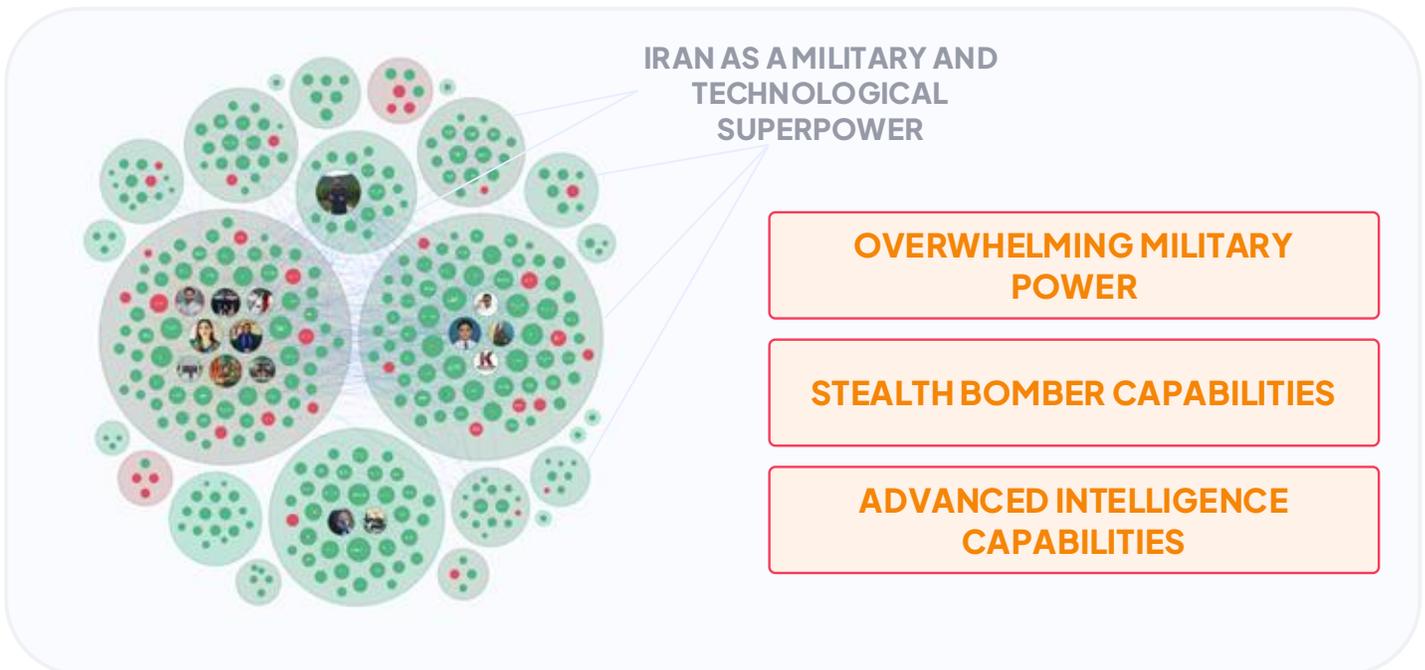
# IRAN PORTRAYED AS A MILITARY AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERPOWER

Beyond depicting attacks on regional adversaries, another core narrative within the pro-Iran disinformation campaign focuses on **exaggerating the strength and technological sophistication of the Iranian armed forces**. AI-generated videos are widely used to project an image of overwhelming military capability and strategic superiority.

These fabricated visuals frequently depict:

- Large-scale bomb detonations, underground bases, and WMD imagery
- Iranian-developed stealth bombers resembling U.S. B-2 aircraft
- Highly capable intelligence and surveillance systems

In some cases, the content is accompanied by ideological messaging. One recurring phrase appearing in several posts is “**Fateh E Khaibar**”, an Arabic expression referencing a historical Islamic battle often invoked as a war cry in anti-Israel rhetoric. Its use within these videos **reinforces the narrative of religiously framed confrontation and amplifies hostile messaging toward Israel and Jewish communities**.



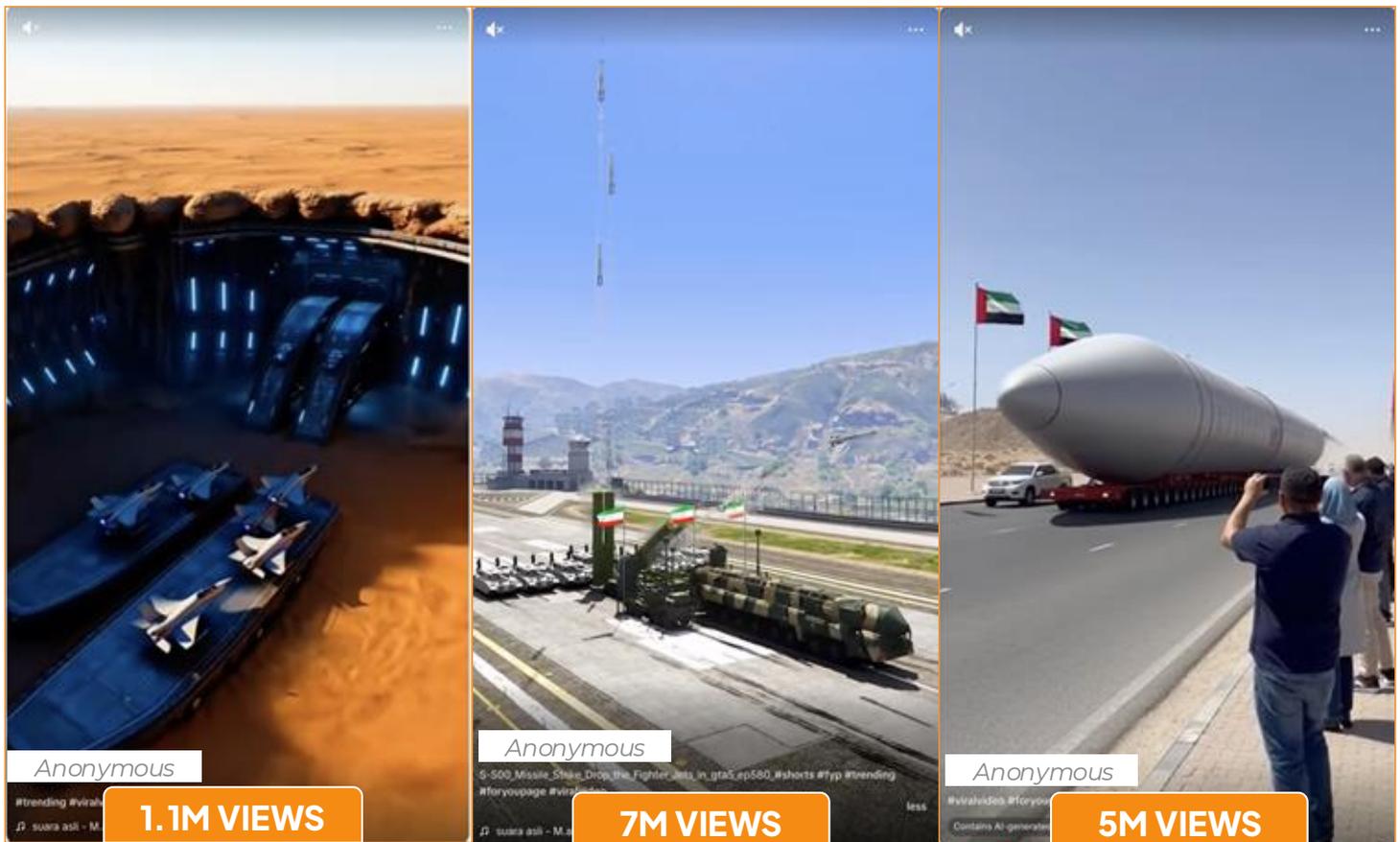
## #2 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# LARGE-SCALE BOMB DETONATIONS, UNDERGROUND BASES, AND WMD IMAGERY



A significant portion of this narrative relies on dramatic visuals depicting large-scale bomb detonations, underground military bases, and weapons of mass destruction imagery. These AI-generated videos are designed to **project overwhelming destructive capabilities** and reinforce the perception of Iran as a technologically advanced military power.

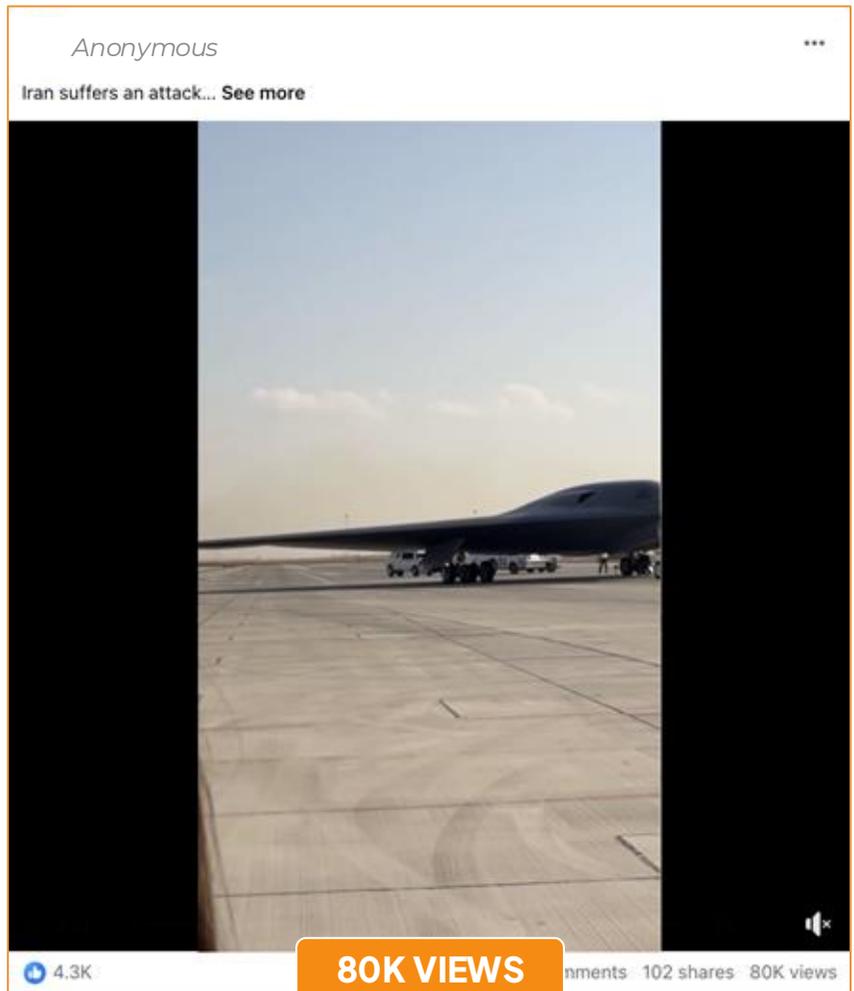
Cyabra identified the TikTok account **@iranwar49** as one of the key actors contributing to this narrative. The account has generated millions of views, particularly on posts featuring exaggerated WMD-related imagery.



## IRANIAN-DEVELOPED STEALTH BOMBERS RESEMBLING U.S. B-2 AIRCRAFT

Within the context of Iranian–American hostilities, the B-2 bomber has become a powerful symbolic element in online narratives. The aircraft gained particular prominence after B-2 bombers were reportedly used to strike Iranian nuclear facilities during Operation Midnight Hammer on June 22, 2025.

The fake accounts in the campaign have leveraged this symbolism by **promoting fabricated visuals suggesting that Iran has developed its own B-2-like stealth bomber**. These AI-generated images and videos insinuate that Iran possesses the technological capability to design, produce, and deploy advanced stealth aircraft on a global scale.





## #2 NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

# HIGHLY CAPABLE INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

Another trend within pro-Iran information warfare aimed at **exaggerating the perceived strength and sophistication of Iran's military intelligence capabilities**.

AI-generated deepfakes promoting this narrative frequently portray women in Iranian military uniforms - both hijabi and European-looking - presented as elite intelligence in the country.

Many of these videos follow a similar production pattern and are accompanied by the same Arabic language "victory" soundtrack, suggesting **coordinated content creation and distribution**. This recurring format helps reinforce the narrative of a highly capable and technologically advanced Iranian intelligence apparatus.

### KEY EXAMPLE: TIKTOK ACCOUNT WITH 22K FOLLOWERS AND MILLIONS OF VIEWS



# IRAN CLAIMS STRATEGIC DECEPTION OF U.S. AND ISRAEL MILITARY STRIKES



The third narrative identified within the disinformation campaign demonstrating how Iranian information warfare rapidly adapts to developments on the battlefield.

- On March 1, 2026, the second day of the conflict, CENTCOM released footage showing strikes on Iranian warplanes positioned on a tarmac at an undisclosed location.
- Shortly after the release of this footage, pro-Iran disinformation accounts began circulating videos claiming that the aircraft targeted in the strikes were merely painted decoys on the runway. These posts portray Iranian personnel painting aircraft silhouettes onto the tarmac, suggesting that U.S. and Israeli forces were deliberately misled and ultimately wasted millions of dollars on ineffective strikes.

This narrative serves a dual purpose within the broader propaganda strategy: it allows Iran to mitigate the reputational damage of military losses while simultaneously framing its adversaries as incompetent and easily deceived.

The image displays three social media posts from anonymous accounts, each with a view count overlay at the bottom:

- Post 1:** A blurry image of a dark object, possibly a plane, with Hebrew text "מי של צבא איראן" (Who is the Iranian military). The caption reads "This video is so embarrassing to Israel". The view count is 65K.
- Post 2:** A video showing a \$5,000,000 bill and a "BREAKING NEWS" banner. The text reads "IRAN PAINTED FAKE AIRPLANES ON A CONCRETE RUNWAY, AND THE U.S. THOUGHT THEY WERE REAL AND BOMBED THE AREA." The view count is 348K.
- Post 3:** A video showing people painting silhouettes on a runway. The caption reads "Están atacando puro concreto USA e Israel terminaron troleados...". The view count is 2.1M.



# MASSIVE ONLINE REACH OF IRAN'S DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN

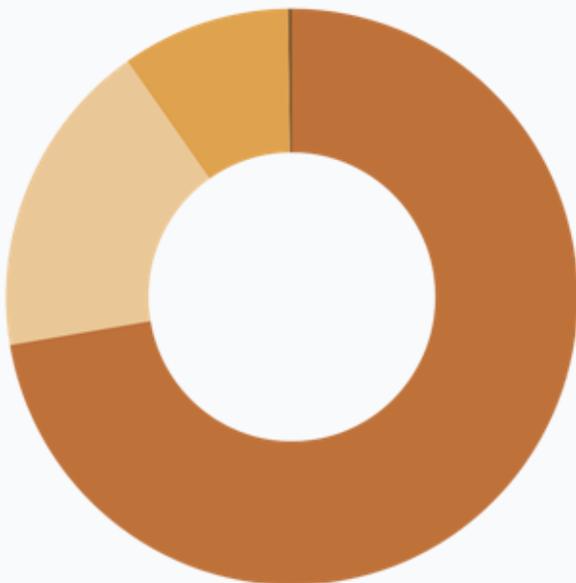
Cyabra's analysis shows that pro-Iran disinformation achieved extraordinary reach across the online ecosystem, generating over 37K content units with **145M+ views** and **more than 9.4M+ engagements** across major social media platforms.

**TikTok emerged as the dominant driver of the campaign**, responsible for the vast majority of the activity with over 105 million views and more than 7 million engagements. The platform's short-form video format and algorithmic amplification enabled AI-generated deepfakes and fabricated war footage to spread rapidly at scale.

Facebook and X also contributed significantly, together generating nearly 40 million additional views and over 2 million engagements, helping sustain the campaign's visibility across multiple audiences, while Instagram played a more limited role in the campaign's overall reach.

**These figures highlight the power of AI-driven disinformation to rapidly penetrate the global information environment, turning social media into a highly effective channel for narrative manipulation during the conflict.**

Platform Views Distribution

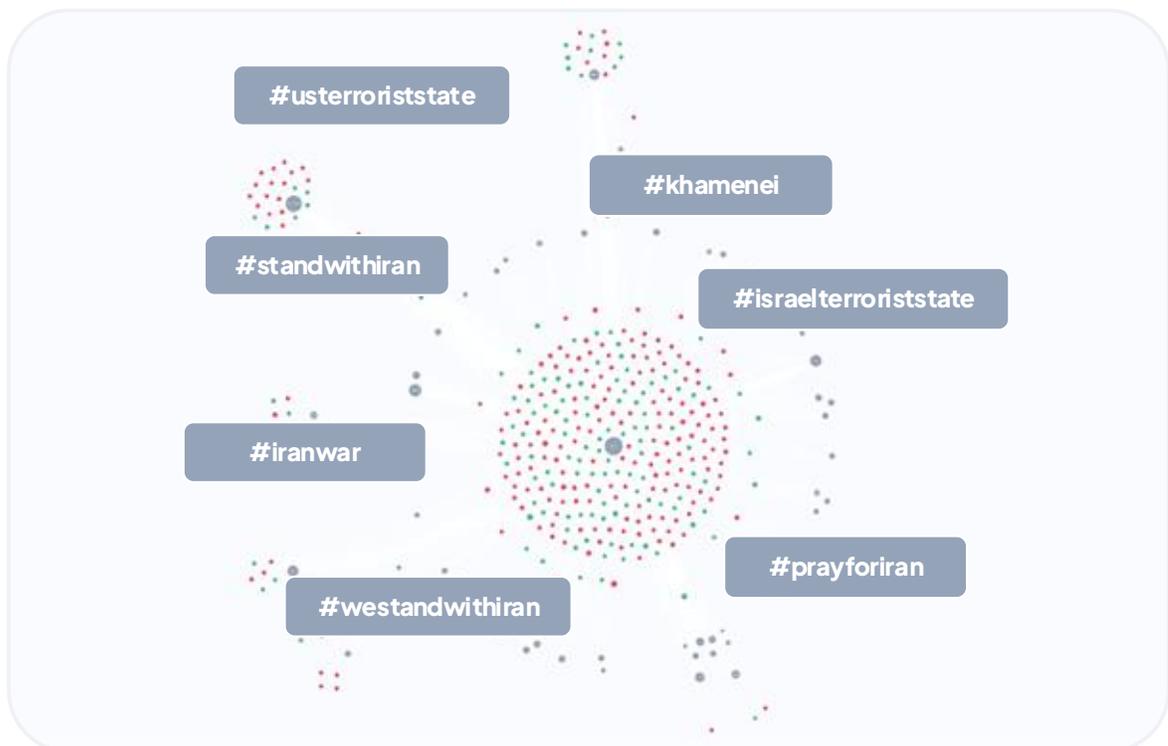


	<b>TikTok</b>	<b>72%</b>
	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>18%</b>
	<b>X</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
	<b>Instagram</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

## CLEAR SIGNS OF COORDINATED DISINFORMATION ACTIVITY

**Cyabra identified clear coordination patterns behind the spread of pro-Iran disinformation, indicating a structured campaign rather than organic online discussion.**

- 1. Identical Narratives Pushed at Scale:** Thousands of posts repeat the same pro-Iran narratives across multiple platforms, reinforcing the campaign's messaging and amplifying the perception of Iranian military success.
- 2. Reused Videos and Captions:** The same AI-generated videos and nearly identical captions appear across numerous accounts, indicating centralized content production and coordinated distribution.
- 3. Fixed Hashtag Clusters:** The campaign relies on recurring hashtag clusters - including #standwithiran, #westandwithiran, #israelterroriststate, and #prayforiran - to boost visibility and algorithmic amplification.
- 4. Bursts Posting Patterns:** Large volumes of posts appear within 1-2 hour windows, signaling synchronized activity. For example, 1,053 posts were published on March 5 at 07:00 UTC, followed by 1,191 additional posts at 11:00 UTC.



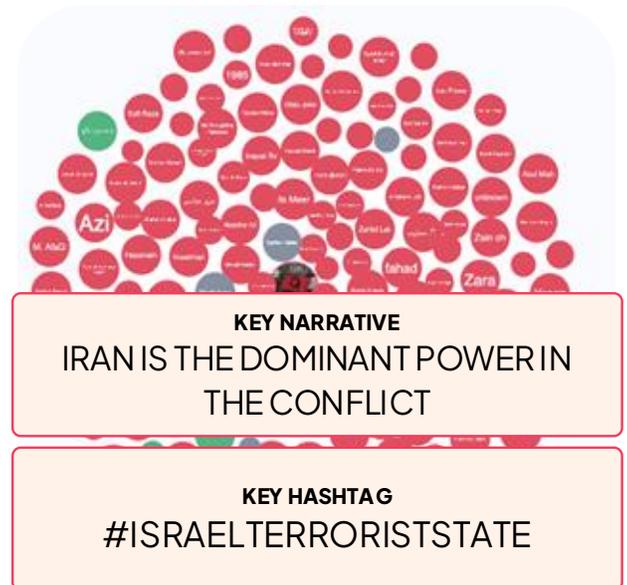
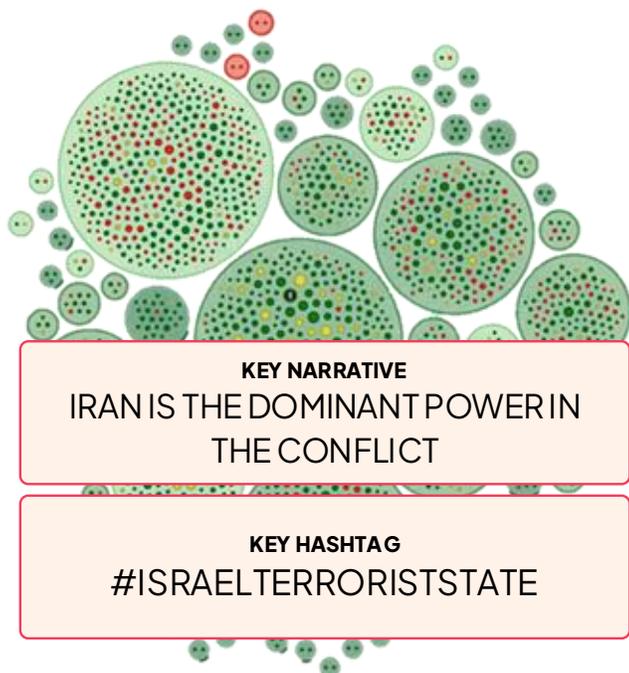
## OPERATIONAL SIGNALS POINTING TO IRANIAN ORIGIN

**Beyond promoting pro-Iran narratives throughout the conflict, Cyabra identified strong indicators linking the campaign to previously observed Iran-aligned operations.**

Several behavioral and narrative patterns closely mirror campaigns Cyabra detected following Iran's April 2024 attack on Israel. In both cases, the central messaging strategy promotes the same core narrative: **portraying Iran as dominant in the conflict and emerging as the winning side**. This repeated framing suggests a consistent propaganda objective aimed at shaping global perception of Iran's military strength.

Additional overlap appears in the messaging infrastructure of the campaign. The hashtag **#israelterroriststate**, widely used in the current operation, was also heavily promoted in earlier Iran-linked campaigns. The repeated use of this framing seeks to undermine Israel's legitimacy and reduce international support for its actions.

Together, these recurring narratives, hashtags, and messaging patterns indicate that the current operation shares clear operational signals with previously identified Iran-aligned disinformation campaigns, strengthening the assessment that the activity is part of a broader, ongoing information warfare strategy.





# CONCLUSIONS

**The investigation reveals a large-scale, coordinated disinformation operation designed to manipulate the global narrative surrounding the recent Operation Epic Fury / Roaring Lion War.**

By deploying tens of thousands of fake accounts and distributing AI-generated videos across social media, the campaign succeeded in pushing pro-Iran narratives to massive audiences, generating over 145 million views.

At the center of the operation was a clear propaganda objective: portray Iran as the dominant and victorious power in the war while framing its adversaries as weak, deceived, or ineffective. This narrative was reinforced through fabricated visuals of Iranian strikes, exaggerated military capabilities, and manipulated footage depicting damage across the region.

The campaign did not spread organically. Clear coordination patterns were identified, including repeated narratives, identical videos and captions, fixed hashtag clusters, and synchronized burst posting. These tactics allowed the network to rapidly flood the information environment and dominate online discussions during key moments of the conflict.

Importantly, the operation also mirrors behavioral and narrative patterns observed in previous Iran-linked campaigns identified by Cyabra, including messaging strategies used following Iran's April 2024 attack on Israel. The recurrence of these signals strengthens the assessment that the activity is part of a broader, ongoing Iranian information warfare strategy.



thank  
you