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Israel's Iron Dome

How layers of air defences protected the country against the biggest onslaught of missiles and drones in its history

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Israel used all four tiers of its air defences — and help from allies — to block Iran's mass drone and missile attack on Israeli territory on April 13, officials say.

The Israeli and U.S. governments said a combination of air-, sea- and ground-launched missiles destroyed nearly all of the hundreds of weapons Iran sent toward Israel. U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the region, said U.S. forces destroyed more than 80 drones and at least six ballistic missiles.

Israel has been honing its air defences since enduring Iraqi Scud missile salvos in the 1991 Gulf War, said **Dr. Yehoshua Kalisky, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. That work resulted in a multi-layered air defence network linked by central control nodes, he said.

[...]

David's Sling provides the middle layer of protection, **Kalisky** said, and is meant to engage shorter-range ballistic missiles launched 100km to 200km (62 to 124 miles) away. Developed and manufactured jointly by Israel's state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and the U.S. Raytheon Co, David's Sling can also intercept aircraft, drones and cruise missiles.

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