

Iran's missile program set back, but nuclear threat remains

Israel appears to be playing a longer game, seeking to degrade Iran's immediate military threat while leaving room for future strikes.

[Yaakov Lappin](#) / (Oct. 27, 2024 / JNS)

Israel's airstrikes on military targets in Iran overnight Friday damaged the Islamic Regime's missile program and air defenses, while demonstrating the Israeli Air Force's advanced long-range capabilities.

However, Iran's nuclear program was left unscathed, suggesting that Israel's government factored in U.S. pressure to keep the attack limited in nature. The question going forward is whether the damage to Iran's missile and air defense infrastructure have paved the way for future strikes.

[...]

Yet Iran's nuclear advancements continue. According to **Sima Shine, director of the Iran and the Shi'ite Axis Research Program at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies**, within two to three weeks, Iran can enrich enough uranium for three nuclear devices. The parallel effort of creating a nuclear warhead, she told JNS this month, would take more time, though she noted Iran could also decide to just create a bomb without a missile warhead. "We're talking about roughly six months to a year and a half," she said. "What is needed is a political decision" on Tehran's part.

In light of these developments, the focus on missile production and air defenses suggests Israel is playing a longer game, seeking to degrade Iran's immediate military threat while leaving room for future strikes.

"Operation Days of Repentance" thus stands as a calculated maneuver, but one that leaves open critical questions about what comes next, and whether Israel has set the stage for a more decisive confrontation with Iran's nuclear program.

For full article:

<https://www.jns.org/irans-missile-program-set-back-but-nuclear-threat-remains/>