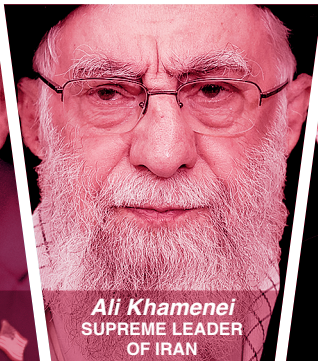


How Iran could respond to U.S. attack

Iran will be mulling over options on how to respond to the U.S. attack, from striking U.S. bases in the region, to blocking a key global shipping waterway – but all carry the risk of further retaliatory aggression



Donald Trump
PRESIDENT OF
UNITED STATES



Ali Khamenei
SUPREME LEADER
OF IRAN



Benjamin Netanyahu
PRIME MINISTER
OF ISRAEL



Iran could strike
19 U.S. military
sites in region

(staffed with some
40,000 troops) by
activating proxies
across **Iraq, Yemen**
and **Syria** – groups
which have previously
attacked American
assets there



Iran may seek to
continue status
quo and just

keep hitting **Israel**,
knowing that it cannot
sustain full-on
confrontation with U.S.
military – hoping
Trump's attack was
one-off demonstration
of power



Iran could
disrupt global oil
trade by closing

Strait of Hormuz
shipping route – key
channel for oil (20
million barrels per day)
and liquefied natural
gas exports from
Middle East to global
markets



Iran still has
tremendous
capacity for
cyberattacks and
terrorism, and could use
them to retaliate against
United States,
particularly as Israel's
attacks have reduced
Iran's military
capabilities



Iran could race
to build nuclear
bomb even if

current regime
collapses and new
leaders come to power
– becoming more
hostile and viewing
nuclear weapons as
their only deterrent
against future attacks



Iran could
resume nuclear
talks, although
they have cornered
themselves by refusing
to negotiate while Israel
attacks them – meaning
that as long as Israel
does so, Iran cannot
return to negotiations
with U.S.