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Iran: Only One Good Option Left

Options On The Table

As Prime Minister Netanyahu prepares his case for handling Iran, an [article](#) from *Israel Hayom* lays out four possible scenarios that could play out:

First scenario: A new nuclear agreement in exchange for sanctions relief and the removal of the threat of attack. The chances of this are slim, and if such an agreement were signed, it would be a bad one.

So, option one is unlikely to happen. The next one is the one Iran would love:

Second scenario: Endless stalling. With negotiations or without them, it makes little difference. Pressure on Iran would continue, and in the absence of a political horizon, a new wave of protests or another internal threat to the regime's survival could emerge. It is also possible that time and nature will take their course, and that under a different Iranian leader, some options could reopen.

Regime change is highly unlikely as well. The next one hasn't worked in the past and is not going to work this time around either:

Third scenario: A token strike, perhaps even coordinated with the Iranians. Trump would declare victory and shift his attention elsewhere. The Iranian problem, of course, would not disappear.

The last one is, in my opinion, the only one to address all the problems:

Fourth scenario: A significant US attack. For it to be effective, its goal would have to be a serious destabilization of the regime, up to and including its collapse. To achieve that, the strike would need to include the elimination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei or at least be an action on a comparable scale. Such an event would shake the regime to its core.

Trump told the protesters to keep going to the streets for regime change with the promise he would help them. He also said that if Iran doesn't address those actions that killed 20,000 people and probably more and the nuclear and ballistic missile then bad things will happen. I don't see Iran doing anything other than stall as they furiously ready themselves for launching attacks on the US and Israel. Expect an attack on Iran to happen soon, probably before Ramadan starts on February 17th, 7 days from now. Now we ask, what would such a military offensive look like?

A Large Scale Operation

According to an [article](#) from *World Israel News* Israel and the US would attack in concert:

Military analysts and regional security experts are increasingly signaling that a coordinated, large-scale strike by Israel and the United States against Iran is highly probable. This potential operation is seen as a necessary follow-up to the June 2025 "12-Day War," which saw Israel and the US target Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. While the 2025 strikes "crippled" Iran's nuclear advancement, recent satellite imagery reveals that Tehran is rapidly rebuilding its missile-related infrastructure.

When Iran agreed to stop attacking after that June 2025 bombing they were warned to not rebuild, but we all knew they would and that's exactly what they did. And now that needs to be dealt with. Iran is also expected to be ready although their country and its people will suffer for such a retaliation:

Experts argue that neither nation can allow Iran to fully reconstitute its capabilities, making a joint return to offensive operations the most logical strategic path. Experts say this action could also trigger the collapse of the Islamic Republic, which is currently facing wide-scale protests and economic distress.

One former US official, one who is still seen as a war hawk wants the result to be regime change: *According to Business Today, former national security adviser John Bolton asserts that any military force used should aim explicitly for regime change.*

An Iranian source thinks the decision has already be made even before the results of talks: *Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a former Iranian national security official and current researcher at Princeton, emphasized that the Trump administration appears committed to a decisive military outcome. He noted that many experts believe Trump has already made the decision for a new strike, which would be an "existential war" for Tehran.*

Joint US/Israeli Action

Military experts see how Israel and the US with tag team to eliminate the threat:

The complexity of reaching hardened Iranian targets, such as the Pickaxe Mountain facility, dictates a joint approach. RAND Corporation analysts have pointed out that Israel lacks the heavy ordnance required to destroy these deep-buried sites alone, making U.S. participation—specifically its heavy bombers—essential for a successful mission.

One expert says that Israel can't pull it off by themselves:

Avi Ashkenazi, a military analyst for Maariv, highlighted the depth of current intelligence sharing between Jerusalem and Washington. He suggested that while Israel is prepared to act alone if necessary, the prevailing belief is that the U.S. will ultimately launch the strike and provide Israel the operational "green light" to join in over Iranian territory.

Israel strongly wants military action:

Israeli leadership has remained firm on the inevitability of further action. Yiftach Ron-Tal, a former IDF major general, has consistently argued that continuous military pressure is the only way to neutralize the Iranian threat, viewing another joint offensive as a required step to "finish the job" started in 2025.

The US pieces are in place to finish the job:

With U.S. aircraft carriers and F-35 fighter jets currently amassing in the region, the infrastructure for a joint 2026 offensive is already being established. Former Pentagon officials have highlighted the expanded 2026 U.S.–Israel "Juniper Oak" exercises, which included long-range strike simulations, aerial refueling, and integrated air-defense suppression. These drills were widely interpreted as preparation for a potential crisis scenario involving Iran.

Experts see the attack to fall along the lines of each countries strong suits:

If Israel and the United States were to act together, experts say the division of labor would reflect each military's strengths. The Israeli Air Force would likely handle precision strikes on specific nuclear facilities, electronic-warfare operations, and rapid-entry missions using its upgraded F-35I fleet. The U.S. Air Force, with its B-2 and B-21 bombers now fully operational, would take

responsibility for deep-penetration strikes, heavy ordnance delivery, and broad suppression of Iranian air defenses.

They also need to work together in the synchronization of the mission:

Coordination would rely on shared targeting data, synchronized timing, and pre-planned air corridors rehearsed in recent joint exercises.

While diplomacy is still on the table Israel and the US are not fooling themselves:

Officials in both countries continue to emphasize diplomacy, but 2026 assessments warn that Iran's nuclear advances are accelerating. The strategic dialogue between Jerusalem and Washington has clearly entered a more urgent phase.

Diplomats will be diplomats, but this is going to end with soldiers being soldiers.