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Middle East Tensions Rise as Israel and Iran Clash

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The recent military clash between Israel and Iran has brought the world dangerously close to a wider conflict. What started as failed negotiations over Iran's nuclear program quickly turned into a fast-moving crisis. On June 13, Israel launched airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites. Just days later, on June 22, the United States followed with Operation Midnight Hammer, targeting Iran's underground facilities with powerful missiles and bombs.

Although President Donald Trump denied giving direct approval for the Israeli strikes, his earlier 60-day ultimatum to Iran had already raised tensions. The message was clear: agree to a deal or face military action. When Iran refused, the strikes came first from Israel, then from the U.S.

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, responded firmly, saying the attacks failed to achieve their goals. However, on June 29, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned that Iran still has the capability to restart high-level uranium enrichment within months. This raises serious concerns that the attacks may have delayed, but not stopped, Iran's nuclear ambitions.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres issued a strong warning: "We are not drifting toward crisis, we are racing toward it." His words reflect growing fear that the conflict could spread beyond the region. With the war in Ukraine ongoing, North Korea making threats, and China increasing its military activity near Taiwan, the world is already under great stress. Another war could push global tensions to a breaking point.

Although a temporary ceasefire is now in place, the situation remains fragile. Critics argue that President Trump's handling of the crisis has damaged the U.S.'s role as a neutral peace broker. His promises of peace now seem far from reality.

The path to lasting peace will require more than military strength; it demands serious diplomacy, trust, and restraint. Without it, the Israel-Iran conflict could become a flashpoint in a much larger and more dangerous global conflict.