

# The Crisis Report

April 14, 2024

## IN THIS EDITION:

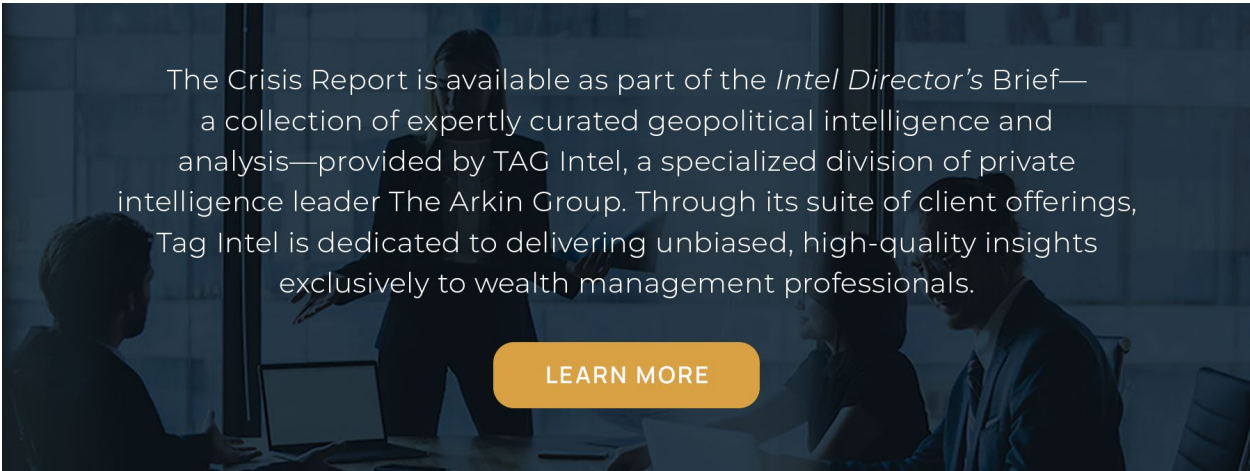
Iran launches drone and missile strike on Israel, threatening regional war.

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**What Happened.** On April 13, in an unprecedented attack, Iran launched nearly 200 hundred drones, cruise and ballistic missiles directly at Israel. According to Iranian officials, the attack was payback for a recent Israeli airstrike on an Iranian consular building in Syria that killed a handful of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC) members along with Iranian Brigadier General Zahedi - who reportedly played a role in planning the October 7 attack. Washington was given advance warning of the attack, and along with assistance from the British, French, and Jordanian air forces, 99% of the Iranian missiles were shot down by the alliance – most before they even entered Israeli airspace. No immediate fatalities were reported.

**Geopolitical Context.** Although Iran and Israel have been fighting a shadow war for decades, Iran has traditionally relied on its proxies like Hezbollah to conduct physical assaults on Israel. While Iran did launch the April 13 attack in collaboration with members of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, Lebanese Hezbollah, and the Yemeni Houthis, the direct involvement of IRGC forces in the attack marks a distinct shift in Tehran's tactics and is a clear escalation.

**What Comes Next.** Now that Iran has directly attacked Israel, the Israelis have legitimacy to retaliate in-kind. Israel has several options and is no doubt actively considering both domestic and international pressures regarding its next move. But Iran's attack was substantial, and Israel will be moved to retaliate quickly. Most likely, Israel will choose a strategic response that will both send a message to Iran and increase Israeli security in the process—targeting a component of Iran's aspiring nuclear program or any individuals associated with an Iranian proxy group who have been directly responsible for killing Israelis.



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