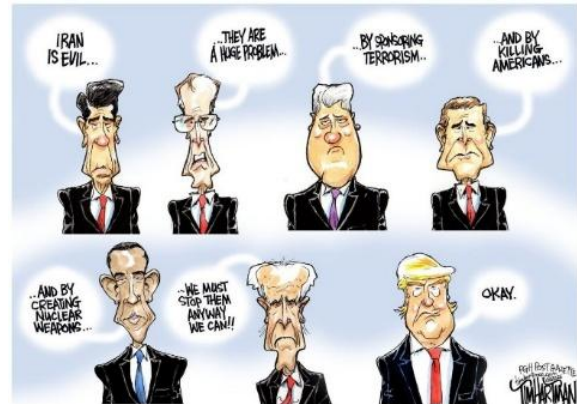


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Iran: Military success, but can it endure?

Steve Bakke  March 31, 2026



Forty-seven years ago, radical Islamists took control of the U.S. Embassy in Iran as they proclaimed, "Death to America." Fifty-two Americans were held captive for 444 days.

Here's a short list of terrorism by Iran and proxies since that event: 1987-88, mined Persian Gulf almost sinking U.S. Navy ship; 1993, bombed Beirut embassy, killing 63, and Marine barracks, killing 241; 1996, bombed military housing in Saudi Arabia, killing 19; 1998, bombed embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 12 Americans and over 220 local residents; 2000, USS Cole bombed, killing 17; 2001, supported 9/11 attackers; from 2003 to and 2011, Iran sponsored IEDs, killing 600 Americans.

Thousands of Americans have been killed and wounded by this Iran regime and its proxies. And don't forget Iran's involvement in attempts on President Trump's life, and its sponsoring of the horrific October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

And the Islamist regime has been unbelievably cruel to its citizens. Children were used to serve as human "mine sweepers," killing many. Last week, a 19-year-old world-class wrestler, arrested during recent demonstrations, was publicly hanged. Over 30,000 citizens were killed during those demonstrations.

Iran sponsored terrorism has intimidated world leaders for decades, resulting in their reluctance to support American and Israeli military actions in 2025's 12-Day War, and now in Iran.

Iran recently fired missiles at the military base at Diego Garcia. We learned that Iran's missiles have twice the range previously thought, able to reach London and Paris. This new information should encourage European leaders to provide support in the Strait of Hormuz, as Trump requested, but so far there's been nothing significant.

Iranian negotiators unexpectedly admitted during the last negotiation that Iran holds 60% enriched uranium, enough to adequately enrich and build 11 nuclear bombs within days, perhaps two weeks. That was a signal that negotiations should cease. Once a nuclear bomb is produced, America's negotiating advantage would be diminished.

Critics question Trump's authority to take these actions. Article II. Section 2 of the Constitution divides war powers: the President, as Commander in Chief, conducts wars, and



