



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on April 24, 2026

Israel Awaits U.S. OK to Attack Iran; State Dept. Admits U.S. Went to War at Israel's Request

Israel is preparing to renew its attack on Iran, and awaits only the "green light" from the United States, the country's defense minister said.

Israel Katz said the upcoming attack will erase the Khamenei dynasty and blow Iran back to the "age of darkness and stone," reiterating U.S. President Donald Trump's vow in early April to bomb Iran back to the "Stone Ages." Katz threatened the attack as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced a visit to Islamabad, where peace talks between the U.S. and Iran have been going on [but failing miserably](#).



AP Images

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz

Katz's remarks, former U.S. counterterror chief Joe Kent said, show that Israel is attempting to force the U.S. to continue attacking Iran. Days ago, the State Department admitted what Secretary of State Marco Rubio said early on: Israel dragged the U.S. into the war.



Green Light Awaited

The warning from Katz amid Trump's extending the ceasefire with Iran because its leadership, he says, is in disarray, comes after similar remarks from Trump.

"We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks," [Trump said](#) on April 1:

We're going to bring them back to the Stone Ages, where they belong. In the meantime,



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discussions are ongoing. Regime change was not our goal; we never said regime change, but regime change has occurred because of all of their original leaders' death. They're all dead.

On April 7, [he warned](#) that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again."

Trump's remarks [invited talk](#) of his removal via the [25th Amendment](#) to the Constitution.

Now, Katz is promising the same thing, The Times of Israel reported, and says Israel merely awaits the go-ahead from Trump.

"Israel is prepared to renew the war against Iran. The IDF is ready in defense and offense, and the targets are marked," [he said](#):

[The Israel Defense Forces are] awaiting a green light from the United States, first and foremost to complete the elimination of the Khamenei dynasty, the initiator of the extermination plan against Israel, and ... the successors of the leadership of the Iranian terror regime, and in addition to return Iran to the age of darkness and stone by blowing up central energy and electricity facilities and crushing national economic infrastructure.



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Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz: "Israel is prepared to resume the war against Iran — We are awaiting a green light from the United States — first and foremost to complete the elimination of the Khamenei family and to push Iran back into a dark age. This time, the



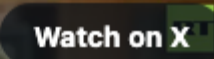
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Israel prepared to RENEW war against Iran, waiting for GREEN LIGHT from US — Israel's Defense Chief Katz

'Targets are marked... to complete ELIMINATION of Khamenei dynasty'





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In other words, Katz said Israel will wage a genocidal war against Iran's civilian population.

"Israel will try to force us back into the war b/c their objective is regime change/decapitation," [Kent wrote](#) over a translation of Katz's remarks:

They can't do this without us.

POTUS has made it clear that our military objectives have been met, it's essential we restrain Israel to ensure we aren't sucked back in.



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Yesterday, after Trump wrote that “Iran is having a very hard time figuring out who their leader is,” Kent noted that Trump had created “room for an off-ramp in which we avoid a return to fighting and eliminate the need for a formal settlement.”

He continued:

We can withdraw and use sanctions as our blockade. By removing our troops and ships, we deny Iran military targets they can use as leverage, forcing them to engage us diplomatically — Iran would then be inclined to make quiet concessions because they urgently need sanctions relief. This gives us strong leverage on the nuclear issue.

Both Iran and POTUS can tell their domestic audiences they won, saving face and preventing further senseless bloodshed.



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Joe Kent ✓

@joekent16jan19 · [Follow](#)



POTUS's statement creates room for an off-ramp in which we avoid a return to fighting and eliminate the need for a formal settlement.

We can withdraw and use sanctions as our blockade. By removing our troops and ships, we deny Iran military targets they can use as leverage, [Show more](#)



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump



Iran is having a very hard time figuring out who their leader is! They just don't know! The infighting is between the "Hardliners," who have been losing BADLY on the battlefield, and the "Moderates," who are not very moderate at all (but gaining respect!), is CRAZY! We have total control over the Strait of Hormuz. No ship can enter or leave without the approval of the United States Navy. It is "Sealed up Tight," until such time as Iran is able to make a DEAL!!! Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DONALD J. TRUMP



Joe Kent ✓ @joekent16jan19

Professor Pape's analysis is sharp. I agree with most of what he lays out in this interview & his substack.

I'm advocating for us to walk now to avoid further escalation, sanctions relief can be used to encourage Iran to open the SOH.

Our top goal now should be avoiding the

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State Department Admits Israel Cause of U.S. Involvement

Katz's threat surfaced as Araghchi announced his trip abroad, a "timely tour of Islamabad, Muscat, and Moscow."

"[The] purpose of my visits is to closely coordinate with our partners on bilateral matters and consult on regional developments," [he wrote on X](#). "Our neighbors are our priority."

The concern is Trump's priority.

On Tuesday, the State Department released "Operation Epic Fury and International Law" from the office of legal advisor Reed Rubenstein. His brief confirmed what Secretary of State Marco Rubio inadvertently admitted early on: The U.S. went to war because of Israel.

Though Trump denied it and Rubio later reversed himself, days after the war began [Rubio confessed](#) the truth:

We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action, we knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties, and perhaps even higher [numbers] killed. And we would all be here answering questions about why we knew that and didn't act.

Now, despite Trump's correction, the [State Department has admitted](#) in writing what Rubio said.

The legal analysis claims that "Epic Fury is only the latest round of an ongoing international armed conflict with Iran." As well, it says, "the United States is engaged in this conflict *at the request of and in the collective self-defense of its Israeli ally*, as well as in the exercise of the United States' own inherent right of self-defense" [Emphasis added].





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This is on the U.S Department of State official page.

The U.S went to war with Iran at the request and in defense of Israel.



★★★

Operation Epic Fury and International Law

Iran. As the United States has explained in multiple letters to the U.N. Security Council, including most recently on [March 10](#), the United States is engaged in this conflict at the request of and in the collective self-defense of its Israeli ally, as well as in the exercise of the United States' own inherent right of self-defense.

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The analysis claims the United States and Israel have been at war since the founding of Iran's Islamic Republic in 1979. Iran, it avers, it "has regularly attacked the United States, its interests, and its allies, including but not limited to Israel, directly and through proxies."

Thus, "the operations recommenced in late February were part of an armed conflict with Iran that has been ongoing for years and, at the very least, since June 2025," the [analysis concludes](#):



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Under well-established rules of international law, it is reasonable to conclude that this conflict did not end in the interim.



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