Iran War

How we have seen, felt the US/Israel-Iran war

The US and Israel have launched a major joint military campaign against Iran, titled Operation Epic Fury, which has significantly escalated following the reported killing of Iran's Supreme leader. We spoke to some of the Ugandans trapped in the war.



Residents gather near remains of a car in the aftermath of an Israel and the US strike on a building in Tehran, Iran on Saturday. PHOTO/REUTERS

BY MONITOR REPORTERS

RODEN KIJAMBO - UGANDAN IN QATAR

"We cannot move right now. Missiles are being fired through the air and allowed to land. Although there is an air defence system in place, strikes are still hitting from above. Even this morning, another attack occurred, and debris was seen falling in several areas. The airport remains closed, and nothing is moving in the skies apart from missiles. Their primary target is a US base, so we are not directly affected, but the fear and uncertainty remain constant."

"Despite the tension, everything is relatively calm, and people continue working indoors. Only a handful of cars are on the roads, and movement is highly restricted. We have been instructed to work from home until further notice, while security teams patrol key areas. Shops and essential services are still operating in some places, though on a reduced scale, and many people prefer to stay inside for safety," he explained.

"We are not permitted to move unless absolutely necessary. Life feels normal in the sense that there is no panic or chaos, but it is not truly normal because of the constant alerts and the sound of defence systems in the background. We have been advised to remain at home, follow official communication channels, and avoid unnecessary travel until the situation stabilizes," he added.

AMINA NALUBEGA - UGANDAN IN DUBAI

"I wasn't scared because I have experienced such a situation before, back in 2013 when the South Sudan war broke out. However, my colleagues were frightened, making phone calls endlessly. Initially, we were told the strikes would only target American bases, but then the situation escalated. The government later explained that falling debris had hit other parts of Dubai, including the Burj Khalifa, Abu Dhabi, and even the airport."

"We have been instructed to remain indoors, and alerts have been issued since yesterday through both phones and television. The government has also prohibited sharing videos on TikTok. Since it is Ramadan, food deliveries are being organised, and women are receiving sanitary pads at homes and designated safe places where we are told to stay. For now, things are calm, and we are waiting for official communication on when work will resume."

WINNIE AKELLO - UGANDAN IN JORDAN

"At first, I was afraid, but my boss reassured me that we are safe because the strikes are targeting US bases in the Middle East, far from where we are. Here, the situation is calm. They only attacked the country yesterday evening, but now everything has settled. This is not my first experience; even last year, the sound of missiles was terrifying. Because Jordan lies between Iran and Israel, I couldn't sleep at night."

ANONYMOUS - BASED IN DUBAI

"We heard blasts on Saturday evening in Dubai, and Qatar Airports suffered property damage. We were terrified and feared what might happen next. Many domestic workers, known locally as 'kadama,' were given back their passports for easy identification. They were also instructed to keep their phones charged and remain ready for any emergency. Security teams warned us to avoid standing near building windows. On Sunday night, we experienced about six missiles, and in the morning, another three were reported. Despite this, we continue working, though we are not heavily exposed to risks."

KASULE RAMADHAN - IN BAHRAIN

I am in Juffair, which is right next to the Naval Support Activity Bahrain, and over the past few hours the activity here has intensified. Other areas have also been targeted, but Juffair has experienced the highest concentration of launches, mainly because of its proximity to the US military installation.

201 DEATHS IN IRAN BY AIR STRIKES

From observation within a typical thirty minute period, about three missiles and a drone are fired toward this area. The interceptors are constantly engaging these threats, and so far they have managed to prevent them from reaching their intended targets. Even though the defence systems are working, the tension is always present, and every strike reminds us how close we are to danger.

By Franklin Draku, Karim Moyobo & David Walugembe

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