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Israel 'simulates attack on Iran' as country prepares for 'unprecedented strikes'

April 11, 2024 [express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk) reported: "Israel's air force has carried out joint exercises with Cyprus to simulate an attack in Iran, local media has reported. The exercises involved long range drill practice and an attack on a remote target in coordination with the Cypriot National Guard and US military, according to Israeli Army radio station GLZ.

Military blogger, OSINTdefender, said drills made up of at least a squadron of Israeli fighter jets carried out a simulated retaliatory strike in preparation for an attack by Iran or its proxies on Israeli territory.

News of the reported maneuvers comes as Israeli officials said they are preparing for an "unprecedented" attack from Iran using cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and drones. US President Joe Biden emphasized the United States' "ironclad" support for Israel on Wednesday (April 10) as Tehran vowed to retaliate over this month's deadly strike on the Iranian Consulate in Syria...



Biden 'must threaten Iran with devastating US response'

April 11, 2024 [telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) reported: Joe Biden must warn Iran that the US will join a "devastating" response if Israel is attacked, Republicans have said.

The US president is under pressure to provide a public security guarantee to Israel, the day after he said America's commitment to the country was "iron-clad".

Ayatollah Khamenei, the Iranian Supreme Leader, has threatened to attack Israel directly in response to a suspected Israeli strike on an embassy building in Damascus earlier this month. US officials believe the strike is "imminent", and Israel has pledged to respond in kind.

Tom Cotton, a Republican senator from Arkansas, said: "Israel is under threat of imminent attack by Iran. President Biden needs to warn the ayatollahs immediately that the United States will back Israel to the hilt..."

Nasrallah: Israel, US know Iranian response to Damascus strike is coming

April 9, 2024 [jpost.com](https://www.jpost.com) reported: "Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah reiterated threats that Iran would respond to the alleged Israeli airstrike that targeted the Iranian consulate in Damascus last week, saying, 'The Americans and Israelis recognize that the Iranian response to the attack on the Iranian consulate is coming.'

Nasrallah noted that the airstrike was the 'highest-profile Israeli attack in Syria in years,' warning that Israel had 'miscalculated' in deciding to carry out the strike.

The Hezbollah leader noted that there were 'two new things' in the alleged Israeli strike on the consulate: the first being that it targeted 'Iranian territory' as it hit a diplomatic mission and the second being that it targeted a high-level official, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Mohammad Reza Zahedi, who Nasrallah referred to as 'the chief Iranian advisor in Lebanon and Syria.'

Nasrallah insisted that the IRGC commanders killed in the Israeli strike were only 'advisors' meant to provide guidance and logistical support and weren't military forces..."

Israel threatens to bomb nuke sites as Iran backs down from direct attack – report

April 9, 2024 [timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com) reported: "Following last week's strike in Damascus and threats of retaliation from Iranian officials, Israel has signaled that it will attack targets in Iran if it were to launch a direct attack, according to an Arab report Monday.

Citing an anonymous 'Western security official,' the London-based *Elaph News* reported that Israel has been conducting air force drills in recent days that include preparing to target Iranian nuclear facilities and other key infrastructure.

Unnamed US intelligence sources told *CNN*, however, that Iran is unlikely to attack Israel directly out of fear of American and Israeli reprisal, and will instead urge its various proxies in the region to launch attacks on its behalf in the coming days...”

For the First Time in History, the Fed Is Reporting Billions in Losses Weekly

April 8, 2024 wallstreetonparade.com reported: “As of April 3, of this year, the Federal Reserve (Fed) has racked up \$161 billion in accumulated losses. We’re not talking about unrealized losses on the underwater debt securities the Fed holds on its balance sheet, which it does not mark to market. We’re talking about real cash losses it is experiencing from earning approximately 2 percent interest on the \$6.97 trillion of debt securities it holds on its balance sheet from its Quantitative Easing (QE) operations while it continues to pay out 5.4 percent interest to the mega banks on Wall Street (and other Fed member banks) for the reserves they hold with the Fed; 5.3 percent interest it pays on reverse repo operations with the Fed; and a whopping 6 percent dividend to member shareholder banks with assets of \$10 billion or less and the lesser of 6 percent or the yield on the 10-year Treasury note at the most recent auction prior to the dividend payment to banks with assets larger than \$10 billion. (This morning the 10-year Treasury is yielding 4.41 percent.)

Operating losses of this magnitude are unprecedented at the of Fed, which was created in 1913. In a press release dated March 26, the Fed stated this: “The Reserve Banks’ 2023 sum total of expenses exceeded earnings by \$114.3 billion.”

As of March 13, of this year, the Fed’s accumulated losses stood at \$156.24 billion and yet on March 20 the Federal Reserve voted to sustain those high 5+ percent interest rates to its member banks – making it look like the captured regulator it is considered to be by millions of Americans.

As the chart above indicates, the Fed’s ongoing weekly losses have ranged from a high of \$3.3 billion for the week ending Wednesday, January 31, 2024, to \$1.86 billion for the most recent week ending Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

American taxpayers have good reason to sit up and pay attention to the Fed’s giant and ongoing losses. That’s because when the Fed is operating in the green, as it was on an annual basis for 106 years from 1916 through 2022, the Fed, by law, turns over excess earnings to the U.S. Treasury – thus reducing the amount the U.S. government has to borrow by issuing Treasury debt securities. According to Fed data, between 2011 and 2021, the Fed’s excess earnings paid to the U.S. Treasury totaled more than \$920 billion.

The loss of remittances from the Fed means the U.S. government will go deeper into debt, putting a heavier tax burden on the U.S. taxpayer and raising the risk of another credit rating agency downgrade of U.S. sovereign debt.

The way the Fed is accounting for these losses is straight out of Alice in Wonderland...”

China conducts ‘combat patrols’ as US holds drills with allies in disputed waters

April 8, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “China conducted ‘combat patrols’ Sunday in the South China Sea, its army said, the same day the Philippines, the United States, Japan and Australia held their first joint drills in the disputed waters.

The maritime activities took place days before US President Joe Biden was due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan, with growing tensions over the hotly contested South China Sea on the agenda.

Beijing’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command said it was organizing ‘joint naval and air combat patrols in the South China Sea’.

‘All military activities that mess up the situation in the South China Sea and create hotspots are under control,’ it said in a statement, in an apparent swipe at the other drills being held in the waters.

The Philippine military said its drills with the United States, Australia and Japan ‘demonstrated the participating countries’ commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific through interoperability exercises in the maritime domain.’

Dubbed the ‘Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity’, the drills included naval and air force units from all four countries...”



Multilateral Maritime Cooperative