

# NATO intercepts second Iran missile in Turkish airspace

Incirlik air base is an important NATO facility that has been used by US troops

● The US embassy in Turkey said it had closed its consulate in Adana

● In a post on X, presidential communications chief Burhanettin Duran said Turkey would not hesitate to protect its airspace and border security

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Ankara yesterday said a second ballistic missile was shot down by NATO defences in Turkish airspace, as Washington urged all of its citizens to leave southeast Turkey over security concerns.

Since the US-Israeli attacks began on February 28, Iran has retaliated with missile and drone strikes across the Middle East in a bid to hit US assets.

So far, Turkey appears to have been spared, despite US troops being stationed at several of its bases, one of which is the Incirlik airbase which lies just outside the southern city of Adana.

But on Monday, the US embassy in Turkey said it had closed its consulate in Adana and advised non-essential staff to leave, with the State Department urging all US citizens to leave the southeast.

"On March 9, 2026, the Department of State ordered non-emergency US government employees and US government employee family members to leave Consulate General Adana due to the safety risks," the embassy said on X.

It referenced a State Department travel advisory saying: "Americans in southeast Turkey are strongly encouraged to depart now."

Barely an hour later, Turkey's defence ministry confirmed another ballistic missile fired from Iran had been intercepted in Turkish airspace by NATO defence systems in the second such incident in five days.

"A ballistic munition launched



Part of a second Iranian ballistic missile destroyed by NATO in Turkish airspace

## Erdogan warns Iran against 'provocative steps' after second missile intercepted

Ankara, Turkey

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday again warned Tehran against taking "provocative steps" after NATO defence systems intercepted a second Turkey-bound ballistic missile launched from Iran.

"Despite our sincere warnings, extremely wrong and provocative steps continue to be taken that will jeopardise Turkey's friendship. One should not engage in such

behaviour," he said, adding: "Persistence and stubbornness in wrongdoing should be avoided".

Some fragments from the weaponry fell in open territory in the Gaziantep area, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) east of Adana, causing no injuries, the ministry added.

"At around 11:30 am (0830 GMT), a fragment of ballistic munition fell onto an empty area above the TOKI housing estate in the Guneysehir district of Gaziantep," the governor's



office said, adding there was no damage.

Images from the scene appeared to show the missile fragment lying on the ground at a building site.

"We were sitting at home when suddenly we heard a big bang. Since there's a construction site here, we thought the noise was coming from there. But when we came and looked, we saw the missile fragment," local resident Ramazan Akpinar told DHA news agency.

He said it made a loud noise but there was "no explosion".

In a post on X, presidential communications chief Burhanettin Duran said Turkey would not hesitate to protect its airspace and border security.

"We once again strongly reiterate our warning to all parties, particularly Iran, to refrain from actions that could endanger regional security and put civilians at risk," he wrote.

On March 4, NATO troops intercepted a Turkey-bound ballistic missile launched from Iran, prompting the alliance to strengthen its "ballistic missile defence posture".

## Bangladesh scraps light displays as Mideast war worsens fuel crunch

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh has tightened security at filling stations, sent students home and even scrapped light displays for independence and Ramadan celebrations, officials said Monday, as the Middle East war worsens the country's energy crunch.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people imports 95 percent of its oil and gas needs.

Following the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, and Tehran's retaliatory strikes throughout the Gulf, the national oil company, Bangladesh Petroleum

Corporation (BPC), restricted fuel sales for most vehicles on Sunday.

The BPC said in a statement that if fuel consumption can be cut by 25 percent, Bangladesh will have 14 days of diesel left. The government has requested people to stop panic buying.

The government has ordered mobile courts to begin operating in the capital Dhaka, to charge and fine those accused of breaching rules on fuel hoarding, smuggling or selling fuel on the open market.

Long traffic queues backed out far from filling stations for a second day yesterday.

## Falling shrapnel kills man in Israel

AFP | Yehud, Israel

Falling shrapnel killed one man and seriously wounded another in central Israel on Monday, first responders said, as blasts rocked the area after the military said missiles were fired from Iran.

Paramedics said the victim was working on a building site in a town just north of Israel's main airport when a barrage of shrapnel tore through the location.

An AFP journalist at the scene saw a newly installed escalator riddled with impact holes that emergency workers said were caused by munitions.

"After performing resuscitation efforts, we had to pronounce the death of a man, approximately 40 years old," the Magen David Adom (MDA) emergency response organisation said in a statement.

Another man was seriously

injured and evacuated to hospital for treatment, the rescuers added.

"It was a difficult scene. The two casualties were lying unconscious and suffering from severe shrapnel injuries to their bodies," MDA paramedic Liz Goral was quoted as saying by her organisation.

Israel's main opposition leader Yair Lapid, who has backed the government on the war with Iran, told journalists at the scene that Tehran was "targeting civilians on purpose".

"Do you see any military facilities around you?" he said. "What they're trying to do is to move this war from a war between armies to a war against civilians."

First responders say 11 people have been killed and dozens injured in Israel since Iran began firing missiles at the country in retaliation for joint US-Israeli strikes.

## Israel says killed head of Hezbollah unit in south Lebanon

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel announced on Monday that its military had killed the head of Hezbollah's Nasr unit operating in part of southern Lebanon during renewed fighting with the Iran-backed armed group.

Defence minister Israel Katz "was briefed on the elimination of the commander of

Hezbollah's Nasr Unit", Abu Hussein Ragheb, during an overnight strike, a statement from the defence ministry said.

The Nasr unit operates in an eastern sector south of Lebanon's Litani River and opened Hezbollah's cross-border attacks on Israel following Hamas's attack in October 2023.

# UAE 'will not partake in any attacks' on Iran

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The United Arab Emirates decried Monday that it was being targeted "in a very unwarranted manner" in the Middle East war, stressing it would "not partake in any attacks against Iran".

"The UAE does not seek to be drawn into conflict or escalation," said Jamal Al Musharakh, the UAE's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

"We've been very clear before and leading up to the current events we are witnessing in the region that as the UAE we will not partake in any attacks against Iran from our territory, and that we will not be involved

"We've been very clear before and leading up to the current events we are witnessing in the region that as the UAE we will not partake in any attacks against Iran from our territory, and that we will not be involved in such a conflict"

JAMAL AL MUSHARAKH, THE UAE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

in such a conflict," he told the UN correspondents' association ACANU.

"Our bases are not being used to attack Iran."

Musharakh said the UAE was calling for a return to the negotiating table.

The United States and Iran held a third round of indirect talks through Omani negotiators, on Iran's nuclear programme, in Geneva on February 26.

Two days later, the United States and Israel launched the



first wave of attacks in a war that has seen Iran strike targets in multiple countries around the Gulf, including in the UAE.

"We were one of the countries that constantly called for the need for a negotiation, the need for diplomacy, the need for

de-escalation," Musharakh said. "And we have constantly informed that our territories would not be used for any attacks against Iran. Yet we are being targeted, frankly, in a very unwarranted manner."

He said the UAE had been subjected to more than 1,400 attacks since the conflict began -- including attacks with cruise and ballistic missiles, and drones -- of which "the vast majority were intercepted and neutralised" by the country's armed forces.

He said the "unprovoked targeting" of civilian infrastructure such as desalination and energy plants, was "unacceptable".

"Tragically, these attacks have resulted in four civilian fatalities, as well as 114 minor injuries," the ambassador said.

"The UAE and other Gulf countries are not parties to the conflict... There is no legal basis for targeting third-party states that are not involved in hostilities."

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian apologised on Saturday to neighbouring countries for attacks launched during the war.

Regarding that apology, Musharakh said: "The actions on the ground speak for themselves: my country is being attacked. Enough said."