

Israel and the US timed strike Saturday (10 am Iran time)

Yes, Israel and the United States strategically timed their opening strikes on **Saturday, 28 February 2026**, to coincide with a high-level meeting involving Iran's Supreme Leader, [Ali Khamenei](#), and his top security inner circle.

Timing and Intelligence

- **The Strike:** The joint operation, codenamed **Operation Epic Fury** by the U.S. and **Operation Roaring Lion** by Israel, began at approximately **9:40 am – 9:45 am Iran Standard Time**.
- **Tactical Shift:** Intelligence originally suggested the meeting would occur Saturday evening, but officials moved the strike forward to Saturday morning after detecting the gathering earlier than expected.
- **Surprise Element:** Attacking in broad daylight, rather than the typical nighttime window, was intended to maximize the element of surprise and prevent leadership from retreating into high-security bunkers.
- **Intelligence Source:** The [CIA](#) reportedly provided critical intelligence on the gathering, which included the presence of Khamenei and senior military cadre.

Key Targets and Reported Outcomes

- **Supreme Leader's Compound:** Initial strikes targeted the high-security compound in Tehran's **Pasteur Street district**, which houses the Supreme Leader's residence and the National Security Council.
- **Casualties:** Israeli and U.S. sources report that [Ali Khamenei](#) was killed in the first wave of strikes. Other high-ranking officials reportedly killed in the same meeting include:
 - [Ali Shamkhani](#), former National Security Council secretary.
 - [Mohammad Pakpour](#), IRGC Ground Forces commander.
 - [Ali Larjani](#), Supreme National Security Council secretary, was also reported to be present at the secure location.

Current Situation (as of 7 March 2026)

- **Escalation:** The conflict has entered its seventh day, with sustained large-scale air operations across 26 of Iran's 31 provinces.
- **Retaliation:** Iran has responded with waves of missile and drone strikes targeting Israel and U.S. military assets across the Gulf, including bases in **Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE**.
- **Leadership Vacuum:** Reports indicate the establishment of an **Interim Leadership Council** in Iran while the [Assembly of Experts](#) debates a successor, with [Mojtaba Khamenei](#) frequently mentioned despite internal opposition.

**** End of notes**