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News | US-Israel war on Iran

Democrats blast Trump for Iran 'war crimes' threat; Republicans supportive

Several members of US Congress question president's fitness for office after his expletive-laden Easter Sunday message.

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Democratic legislators questioned the Republican's mental stability after an Easter Sunday message in which he threatened to bomb Iran's power plants and bridges, which legal experts said would amount to war crimes. 

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Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari, who is of Iranian descent, called for invoking the [25th Amendment](#) to remove Trump from the presidency, suggesting he is unfit to serve.

"The President of the United States is a deranged lunatic, and a national security threat to our country and the rest of the world," Ansari wrote in a social media post.

For more than two weeks, Trump [has been threatening](#) to "obliterate" Iran's civilian infrastructure if Tehran does not open the Strait of Hormuz.

But Sunday's social media post – which coincided with the Easter holiday, included an expletive and invoked the name of Allah – was especially jarring to many of Trump's critics at home and around the world.

"Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!!" Trump wrote.

"Open the F****n' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell – JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah."

Hakeem Jeffries, the top Democrat in the House of Representatives, called the message "disgusting and unhinged".

"Something is really wrong with this guy," Jeffries wrote on X.

'Immoral madman'

In the war's opening US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, an attack on a [girls school](#) in the south of the country killed

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Multiple visual investigations have shown that the strike was likely carried out by a US [Tomahawk missile](#).

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US-Israeli air raids have also struck several universities across Iran as well as residential buildings and medical centres.

International humanitarian law prohibits the targeting of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure as a form of collective punishment.

Senator Elissa Slotkin, a centrist Democrat and former CIA operative, said attacks against Iran's civilian infrastructure would violate the Geneva Conventions and the Pentagon's own Law of War Manual.

"It is both irresponsible and wrong to indiscriminately kill civilians in Iran and destroy civilian infrastructure like bridges and power plants – particularly when the President said this war was to aid the Iranian people," Slotkin said.

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Iran has remained defiant against Trump's threats.

Unable to match the firepower of the US and Israel, Tehran has been blocking the [Strait of Hormuz](#) to choke off oil supplies globally and raise the cost of the war for Washington.

The Iranian military has also been firing missiles and drones against Israel and across the entire region.

Trump and his aides have been insisting that Iran's military capacity has been destroyed with only a "few" missiles left in Tehran's arsenal.

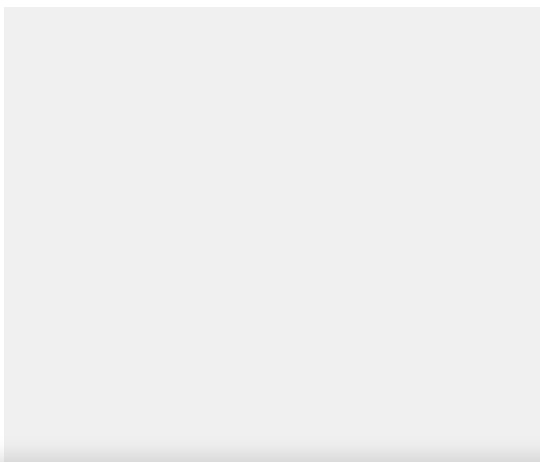
Republican support

Despite the mounting criticism of the war, the US president's Republican allies have largely stood behind him.

"President Trump is right to insist that any negotiated deal meets our military and strategic objectives. If Iran balks, he's right to blow up their crucial infrastructure so they can't go back to their old ways," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said on Monday.

Congressman Don Bacon accused the war's critics of living in a "bubble", saying the Iranian government has killed about 1,000 Americans since 1979.

The number likely refers to US casualties in the Middle East resulting from attacks carried out by groups allied with Iran during US [military interventions](#) in the region.



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“You cannot let a country frequently target Americans and not respond. The Ayatollah and his henchmen had this coming for a long time,” Bacon wrote on X, referring to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed on the first day of the war.

The US-Israel war [has killed](#) more than 2,000 people in Iran, according to Iranian officials who said they are mostly civilians.

Despite the mounting civilian casualties, Trump said on Monday that Iranians want their country to be bombed.

“The Iranian people, when they don’t hear bombs go up, they’re upset. They want to hear bombs because they want to be free,” he said.

Later in the day, Trump rejected accusations that bombing civilian infrastructure would amount to war crimes. “I hope I don’t have to do it,” he said, claiming that his goal is to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Trump has said repeatedly over the past months that [the June 2025](#) US attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities “obliterated” the country’s nuclear programme.

Iran denies seeking a nuclear weapon, while Israel is widely believed to have an undeclared nuclear arsenal.

Asked about some Democrats’ concerns about his mental health, Trump said: “If that’s the case, you’re going to have more people like me because our country was being ripped off on trade and everything for many years, until I came along.”

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