



The Iranian Regime's Decades of Terrorism Against American Citizens

The White House | March 2, 2026

For nearly half a century, the Islamic Republic of Iran — the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism — has killed and maimed American citizens and service members through its own forces and proxy militias. More Americans have been killed by Iran than any other terrorist regime on Earth.

President Donald J. Trump is doing what Presidents over the last five decades have refused to do — eliminate the threat once and for all. By destroying Iran's missiles, annihilating their navy, and ensuring they can never obtain a nuclear weapon, the Trump Administration's bold and decisive action is protecting American lives and advancing American interests.

Here is only a partial record of the Iranian regime's blood-soaked war on Americans:

- **November 1979:** Iranian students, backed by the regime, [seized](#) the U.S. Embassy in Tehran — taking 66 Americans hostage in a [444-day standoff](#).
- **April 1983:** The Islamic Jihad, an Iran-backed terrorist group, [carried out](#) a suicide car bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 17 Americans.
- **October 1983:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [killed](#) 241 U.S. military personnel — including 220 U.S. Marines and 21 other service personnel — in a truck bombing at a Marine compound in Beirut.
- **March 1984:** Iran-backed Islamic Jihad terrorists [kidnapped](#) CIA station chief William Buckley on his way to work in Beirut, ultimately killing him the following year.
- **September 1984:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [killed](#) 23 innocent people — [including](#) two American service members — in a car bomb attack at the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut.
- **December 1984:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [hijacked](#) Kuwait Airways Flight 221 en route to Pakistan, diverting it to Tehran — where they brutally tortured

and [killed](#) two American officials.

- **June 1985:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [hijacked](#) TWA Flight 847 on its way from Athens to Rome, torturing a U.S. Navy diver before shooting him point blank in the head and tossing his body onto the Beirut airport tarmac.
- **July 1989:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [killed](#) U.S. Marine Col. William Higgins after kidnapping him the previous year while serving with a United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon.
- **April 1995:** Iran-backed Islamic Jihad terrorists [killed](#) eight people — including one American citizen — in a car bomb attack in the Gaza Strip.
- **August 1995:** An Iran-backed Hamas suicide bomber [blew up](#) a bus in Jerusalem, killing an American and three other passengers, and wounding more than 100 others.
- **February 1996:** An Iran-backed Hamas suicide bomber [blew up](#) another bus in Jerusalem, killing three Americans and wounding three other Americans.
- **March 1996:** A suicide bomber linked to the Iran-backed Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist groups [killed](#) 20 people — including two Americans — in a suicide bombing at a

Tel Aviv shopping center.

- **May 1996:** Iran-backed terrorists [killed](#) an American-Israeli dual citizen and wounded another American citizen in the West Bank.
- **June 1996:** Iran-backed Hezbollah Al-Hijaz terrorists [killed](#) 19 U.S. Airmen and wounded nearly 500 others in a truck bombing at a U.S. Air Force housing complex in Saudi Arabia.
- **September 1997:** Iran-backed Hamas suicide bombers [blew themselves up](#) at a shopping mall in Jerusalem, killing an American-Israeli dual citizen and wounding seven other American citizens.
- **August 1998:** Al-Qaeda suicide bombers, [facilitated](#) by Iran-backed Hezbollah, simultaneously bombed U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, [killing](#) 224 people — including a dozen American citizens.
- **August 2001:** An Iran-backed Hamas terrorist [blew up](#) a Jerusalem pizzeria, killing three Americans.
- **January 2002:** An Iran-backed al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade terrorist [killed](#) an American-Israeli dual citizen in the West Bank.

- **July 2002:** An Iran-backed Hamas terrorist [killed](#) five Americans in a bombing at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
- **June 2003:** An Iran-backed Hamas suicide bomber [killed](#) 17 people — including an American citizen — on a bus in Jerusalem.
- **October 2003:** Iran-backed Popular Resistance Committees terrorists [killed](#) three U.S. diplomatic personnel in a bombing in Gaza.
- **Between 2003 and 2011:** Iran-backed militias [killed](#) at least 603 U.S. troops in Iraq — “roughly one in every six American combat fatalities in Iraq.”
- **August 2003:** An Iran-backed Hamas terrorist [blew up](#) a bus in Jerusalem, killing five Americans and wounding one other American.
- **August 2006:** Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists [killed](#) American citizen and Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier Michael Levin during the Second Lebanon War — the only American to die in the conflict.
- **January 2007:** A dozen men affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Quds Force [killed](#) five U.S. soldiers and wounded three others in Karbala, Iraq, after [disguising](#) themselves as U.S. soldiers and entering the

Provincial Joint Coordination Center.

- **March 2007:** Former FBI Agent Robert Levinson [disappeared](#) in Iran, likely dying in an Iranian prison.
- **July 2014:** Iran-backed Hamas terrorists [killed](#) two American citizens serving in the IDF.
- **October 2015:** Iran-backed Hamas terrorists [killed](#) an American citizen and his wife in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank.
- **December 2019:** Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah terrorists [killed](#) an American civilian contractor and wounded several U.S. service members in a rocket attack at K1 Air Base in Kirkuk, Iraq.
- **January 2020:** 109 U.S. troops [suffered](#) traumatic brain injuries in an Iranian ballistic missile attack on the Ain al-Asad airbase in Iraq.
- **September 2020:** U.S. intelligence [indicated](#) the Iranian regime was considering a plot to assassinate the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa.
- **February 2021:** An Iran-backed militia [fired](#) a rocket at coalition forces in Erbil, Iraq, wounding a U.S. service member

and four U.S. civilian contractors.

- **July 2021:** Iranian-backed militias [wounded](#) two U.S. service members in a series of rocket and drone attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria.
- **September 2022:** An Iranian rocket attack [killed](#) an American citizen in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- **November 2022:** An IRGC captain [orchestrated](#) the killing of an American citizen in Baghdad.
- **March 2023:** An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) an American contractor and wounded five U.S. service members and another contractor in a strike on a coalition base in Syria.
- **October 2023:** Iran-backed Hamas terrorists [killed](#) 46 Americans and kidnapped at least 12 Americans in the October 7th massacre.
- **December 2023:** Iran-backed militias [wounded](#) three U.S. service members in an attack on Erbil Air Base in Iraq.
- **January 2024:** Iran-backed [Kataib Hezbollah](#) terrorists [killed](#) three U.S. service members and wounded more than 40 other service members in a drone attack against the Tower 22 military base in Jordan.

- **Between October 2023 and November 2024:** Iran and its proxies [conducted](#) more than 180 attacks against U.S. forces in the Middle East, [wounding](#) more than 180 U.S. service members and killing three service members.
- **November 2024:** An Iranian national and IRGC asset was [charged](#) for plotting to assassinate President Trump.
- **June 2025:** Iran-backed militias [attacked](#) at least three U.S. bases in Syria and two [U.S. bases](#) in Iraq.