



The Destruction of Tehran?



All reconstructed image based on a real photo

based on <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-888536>
by YONAH JEREMY BOB

IDF Says 600 Iranian Targets Hit as Operations Continue

The Israeli military says it has struck around 600 targets across Iran, dropping approximately 2,500 bombs since the conflict began on Saturday morning.

According to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), the strikes have destroyed around 150 ballistic missiles, dozens of missile launchers and about 200 air defence systems. The campaign has also targeted roughly 20 senior figures connected to Iran’s leadership, each strike reportedly affecting multiple officials.

In total, the Israeli Air Force has carried out around 1,000 aerial sorties as it seeks to expand air superiority across large areas of the country, including Tehran and parts of western Iran.

Focus Shifts Toward Regime Targets

Military officials say the initial focus of the operation was to reduce Iran’s ability to launch ballistic missiles at Israel.

However, the targeting strategy has since broadened to include institutions linked to Iran’s leadership and security apparatus. Israeli sources suggested the aim is to

weaken the government while potentially creating conditions that could encourage internal opposition within Iran.

Officials also indicated they would prefer the operation to continue for several weeks to further degrade missile capabilities and pressure the Iranian leadership.

Intelligence Officials Reportedly Killed

Among the reported casualties are two senior members of Iran’s Intelligence Ministry, following an airstrike on the ministry’s headquarters in Tehran.

The IDF said those killed included Sayed Yahya Hamidi, the deputy intelligence minister responsible for “Israel affairs,” and Jalal Pour Hossein, head of the ministry’s espionage division.

According to Israeli military statements, Hamidi had been involved in directing operations targeting Jewish communities, Western officials and Iranian dissidents both inside and outside the country.

Reports of Additional Casualties

Israeli officials have said that several hundred members of Iran’s security forces have been killed in the strikes.

However, one Israeli source told the Jerusalem Post that the death toll among the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) could be between 1,000 and 1,500

personnel. The Israeli military has not publicly confirmed those figures.

There have also been reports of airstrikes against Iranian government forces near Kurdish areas along the Iran–Iraq border, though Israeli officials have declined to comment directly on those claims.

US Role in the Conflict

The United States has also been involved in the operation, though it has released fewer detailed updates.

On the first day of the conflict, US officials said American forces had struck around 900 targets, nearly double the number attributed to Israeli operations at that stage.

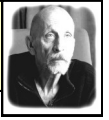
Israeli officials have repeatedly credited US forces with carrying out a large share of the strikes.

Iranian Missile Attacks Continue

Meanwhile, Iranian missile attacks on Israel have continued.

On Monday, 19 people were injured when an Iranian ballistic missile directly hit a residential area in Beersheba. All casualties were taken to Soroka Medical Center, where one person was reported to be in moderate condition and the others lightly injured.

Local authorities said the strike destroyed several homes, and rescue teams were searching the damaged area for additional



victims.

Airspace and Security Measures

Israel's Home Front Command said it was considering reopening Ben-Gurion Airport and Israeli airspace later on Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

However, other officials suggested this timetable might be overly optimistic and that restrictions could remain in place for several more days.

Military officials said the situation remains fluid and could change depending on threats from Iran or its regional allies, including Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi movement.

Changing Missile Patterns

By Monday morning, Israel reported fewer air raid sirens than during the first days of the conflict.

Officials said Iranian missile launches have become more coordinated, typically involving salvos of between nine and 30 missiles at a time.

The IDF believes Iran may have intended to launch larger barrages but has instead divided its missile forces. According to Israeli assessments, some missiles may have been directed at other countries in an attempt to increase international pressure for a ceasefire.

Civil Defence Observations

The IDF also released details about a missile strike in Beit Shemesh on Sunday.

Many people who had taken shelter in a reinforced safe room beneath a synagogue survived the attack. Military officials said those inside the protected room suffered fewer injuries than individuals outside it.

Rescue workers were credited with quickly extracting survivors from the rubble and preventing further casualties.

An early investigation suggested the missile may have struck earlier than expected due to a change in its trajectory or a technical malfunction, preventing Israeli air defence systems from intercepting it in time.

based on <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle-east/2026-03-01/weapons-iran-20922986.html>

By Gary Warner

US Deploys Wide Range of Weapons in Large-Scale Strikes on Iran

The United States has deployed more than 20 different types of weapons systems during a joint military campaign with Israel that has targeted over 1,000 sites across Iran, according to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

The operation, known as Operation Epic Fury, represents what CENTCOM described as the largest concentration of American military power in the region in decades.

In a statement released Sunday, the command said American forces used a combination of aircraft, naval vessels, missiles, drones and artillery systems during the operation.

Massive Military Deployment

Among the platforms involved were B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II fighter jets, as well as EA-18G Growler electronic warfare aircraft and MQ-9 Reaper drones capable of launching

precision missiles.

Ground-based systems were also used, including the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). CENTCOM added that additional classified capabilities had also been deployed but could not be publicly identified.

Admiral Brad Cooper, the commander of CENTCOM, said the operation involved every branch of the U.S. military—including the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force and Coast Guard.

Israel's military said it carried out its own large-scale strikes during the operation, dropping more than 1,200 munitions across Iran. The attacks reportedly killed several senior Iranian leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with other high-ranking political and military officials.

Naval Forces Launch Missile Strikes

CENTCOM has released images and video footage showing U.S. naval vessels launching missiles during the campaign.

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Thomas Hudner was shown firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iranian targets, while the USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. launched Standard Missiles, which are designed to intercept aircraft, cruise missiles and

drones.

Defence analyst Michael Fabey of Janes USA said Standard missiles are typically used to engage fast-moving threats.

"When a Standard missile is launched, it's usually aimed at a moving target such as an aircraft, cruise missile or drone," he explained.

Lessons from Earlier Conflicts

Fabey said the U.S. military has gained significant experience countering Iranian-made weapons through previous conflicts with Tehran and its regional allies.

He pointed to the fighting in the Red Sea last year against Houthi forces, which used missiles and drones supplied by Iran.

"That conflict was the most intense combat the United States had faced since World War II," he said.

According to Fabey, the U.S. Navy has since improved its ability to counter both ballistic missiles and drone attacks using the Aegis Combat System, which is designed to track and intercept incoming threats.

"The Navy learned a lot from those engagements in the Red Sea," he said. "They are likely applying those lessons now."

However, he cautioned that Iran still has a large stockpile of missiles and may not deploy all of its capabilities immediately.

Iranian Retaliation

Iran has responded to the attacks by launching waves of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones at U.S. bases, Israel and several countries in the Gulf region.

Officials said Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have all reported either being targeted or affected by Iranian strikes.

Although many of the incoming missiles and drones have been intercepted by American, Israeli and Gulf air-defense systems, some have managed to hit their targets.

Images from Bahrain show what appears to be an Iranian ballistic missile striking a naval facility that hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet.

Video from another attack in Bahrain appears to show a Shahed-136 drone, a triangular loitering munitions widely used by Iranian forces and their allies.

Damage Across the Gulf

The United Arab Emirates reported that Iran launched 137 missiles and 209 drones during the first day of the conflict.

Some of the attacks caused damage in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, including at well-known developments such as Palm Jumeirah and the Burj Al Arab area.

Officials said some damage was caused by debris from missiles or drones that had been intercepted.

Reports from Doha indicated that an attack near Abu Dhabi airport left one person dead and seven others injured. Airports in Dubai and Kuwait were also reported to have suffered damage.



New Drone System Introduced

CENTCOM also announced the introduction of a new combat drone called LUCAS (Low-Cost Unmanned Combat Attack System).

The drone, produced by Arizona-based company SpektreWorks, is described as a reverse-engineered version of the Iranian Shahed-136 drone.

Military officials say the system is intended to counter similar weapons used by Iranian forces.

International Involvement

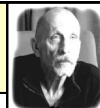
Other countries have also become involved in the defence effort.

A Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter jet reportedly shot down an Iranian drone heading toward Qatar. The UK deployed Typhoon aircraft to the country earlier this year to strengthen air defences.

Targeting Iran's Leadership

A report from the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said the strikes appear to be part of a broader strategy aimed at disrupting Iran's leadership and military command structure.

The think tank described the campaign as a "decapitation strategy" intended to weaken



Iran's ability to coordinate retaliation. However, reports from several news organizations suggest Iranian leaders had anticipated such a possibility. Before his death, Ayatollah Khamenei reportedly established a network of deputies authorized to continue military operations if he were killed or cut off from communications.

Analysts say that preparation could allow Iran's command structure to continue functioning despite the loss of senior figures. Note: image from wiki

<https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/IMAGERY/igphoto/2003834256/>

his file is a work of a U.S. military or Department of Defence employee, taken or made as part of that person's official duties. As a work of the U.S. federal government, the file is in the public domain in the United States.

based on <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a70641609/betz-mystery-sphere-conspiracy-theory-truth/> and wiki

The Betz Mystery Sphere: The Strange Metal Ball That Sparked a UFO Legend

In 1974, a Florida family discovered a heavy metal sphere on their property after a brush fire. What began as a curious find soon turned into a national curiosity, attracting scientists, the U.S. Navy, and UFO enthusiasts. Decades later, the "Betz mystery sphere" remains one of the most persistent small-scale mysteries in modern folklore.

The Discovery

On March 27, 1974, Antoine Betz, his wife Jerri, and their son Terry were inspecting damage from a brush fire near their home on Fort George Island, Florida. While surveying the area, they came across a smooth metal sphere roughly eight inches in diameter—about the size of a bowling ball—but unusually heavy, weighing around 22 pounds.

At first, the family assumed the object might be a historic cannonball left behind from Florida's early Spanish colonial period. However, the sphere's condition quickly raised doubts. It was perfectly smooth, highly polished, and free of corrosion—features inconsistent with centuries-old iron weaponry.

Curious, the Betzes brought the object home.

Strange Behaviour

Soon after bringing the sphere indoors, the family began reporting unusual behaviour.

They claimed the ball occasionally rolled on its own across the floor and sometimes changed direction. Terry Betz also said the sphere seemed to react to sound. While he was playing guitar, the ball reportedly produced a humming or throbbing noise that startled the family dog.

In some demonstrations, the Betzes said the sphere would roll away and then return toward whoever had pushed it. The family

also noticed vibrations when the sphere was struck and believed it might respond more strongly in bright sunlight.

Stories about the unusual object spread quickly through local media, prompting curiosity—and scepticism—from scientists and the military.

Scientific and Military Examination

The sphere was eventually examined by several experts.

An engineer from a research firm reportedly detected weak radio signals and a magnetic field around the object. The U.S. Navy later studied the sphere at Jacksonville Naval Air Station. Initial X-ray attempts failed because the steel shell was extremely thick, though later scans showed no unusual internal mechanisms.

A Navy spokesman concluded that the object was human-made and posed no hazard.

Astronomer and UFO researcher J. Allen Hynek—famous for his work investigating unidentified flying objects—also examined the sphere. He agreed that it appeared to be a manufactured object of terrestrial origin rather than anything extraterrestrial.

The Most Likely Explanation

Despite the attention and speculation, the simplest explanation emerged from industrial engineering.

Investigators determined that the sphere closely matched a stainless-steel ball used in industrial piping systems, known as a ball check valve. These components regulate fluid flow in chemical plants, paper mills, and other industrial equipment.

A Jacksonville equipment supplier confirmed



that a Bell & Howell ball valve in their stock was almost identical in size and weight to the Betz sphere.

Later research uncovered another possible clue: an artist who collected scrap metal for sculptures reported transporting several similar ball valves on the roof rack of his van while driving through the Jacksonville area in the early 1970s. He believed some may have fallen off during the trip.

Explaining the "Movement"

Experts say the sphere's reported movements likely had ordinary causes.

Because the ball was almost perfectly round and heavy, even slight unevenness in flooring could cause it to roll unexpectedly or change

direction. The Betz home had old stone floors that were not perfectly level, making such motion plausible.

In most documented cases, the sphere only moved when someone had recently pushed or shaken it.

The Conspiracy That Won't Die

Despite these explanations, the Betz sphere became a minor legend. The combination of strange behaviour, military involvement, and the UFO enthusiasm of the 1970s helped fuel speculation.

Over time, theories have ranged from alien probes to secret government devices. Online forums and podcasts continue to revisit the story decades later.

The Likely Reality

In the absence of clear scientific explanations in the early days of the discovery, the Betz family's unusual find quickly grew into a mystery. But modern analysis strongly suggests the object was simply an industrial steel ball valve that ended up lost in the woods.

What began as a curious piece of scrap metal ultimately became an enduring example of how easily ordinary objects can turn into extraordinary legends.

from <https://news.met.police.uk/news/counter-terrorism-detectives-identify-russian-involvement-in-cargo-fires-506849>

Investigators Link Suspected Russian Intelligence to Cargo Fires Across Europe

Counter-terrorism investigators have identified suspected involvement by Russian military intelligence in a series of fires affecting air freight shipments across Europe. The incidents are being examined through a joint international investigation involving law enforcement agencies from Lithuania, Poland, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands. Authorities from the participating countries have been sharing evidence and intelligence relating to several cargo fires that occurred at different locations across Europe.

The multinational investigative team was formed through Eurojust, the European Union agency responsible for coordinating cross-border criminal investigations.

UK Investigation

Britain's Counter Terrorism Policing network became involved after a package ignited at a freight depot in Minworth, near Birmingham, on 22 July 2024. Following initial inquiries, Counter Terrorism Policing London took the lead in the UK investigation and began linking the incident with similar cases reported elsewhere in Europe.

In March 2025, detectives arrested a 38-year-old Romanian national on suspicion of assisting a foreign intelligence service, an offence under Section 3 of the UK's National Security Act 2023. The man was later released while investigations continue.

Suspected Russian Role

Based on evidence gathered during the joint investigation, detectives believe the incidents may be connected to Russian military intelligence.



Investigators are continuing to work with the Crown Prosecution Service, European law-enforcement partners and the freight carrier affected by the incidents as the inquiry progresses.

International Cooperation

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Vicki Evans, the Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, praised the level of cooperation between European authorities.

She said the investigation demonstrated the importance of cross-border collaboration when tackling complex national security threats.

"The work of our European partners has been outstanding and highlights the importance of international cooperation in tackling incidents like this," Evans said.

"The strength of that partnership has allowed us to identify what we believe is Russian military intelligence involvement in several incidents across Europe.

"Our investigation is ongoing and we remain in close contact with partners to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect the freight sector and the wider public."

Evans also warned that UK counter-terrorism investigators are increasingly dealing with activity linked to foreign states.

She said this has led to a growing number of national security investigations, with specialist teams working continuously to detect and disrupt threats.

"Our officers are working around the clock to identify and stop hostile activity linked to foreign states, in order to protect the UK and the public from terrorism and other threats to national security," she added.

based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn8zd049108o>

By Thomas Mackintosh

Russian Strike on Kharkiv Apartment Block Kills at Least Ten

At least ten people, including children, have been killed after a Russian airstrike hit a residential building in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

Regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said the attack struck a five-storey apartment block early on Saturday morning. Emergency crews are continuing to search through the wreckage for possible survivors.

According to Syniehubov, those killed include a 65-year-old woman, a 40-year-old man and a 13-year-old girl. Rescue workers later recovered four additional bodies from the debris, including that of a nine-year-old boy. The strike also caused extensive damage to surrounding buildings. Seven residential blocks were affected, along with local power infrastructure and an administrative building. Zelensky said at least ten other people were injured in the attack, among them several children. He warned that more victims could still be trapped beneath the rubble as rescue operations continue.

"All necessary emergency services are working at the scene," the Ukrainian president said, adding that teams were

doing everything possible to locate survivors. Widespread Overnight Attacks

The strike on Kharkiv was part of a wider wave of Russian attacks overnight that triggered air raid alerts across Ukraine, including in the Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Zelensky said Russia launched 29 missiles and around 480 drones during the attacks. He said the strikes targeted energy infrastructure in Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi and Chernivtsi regions, as well as railway infrastructure in the Zhytomyr region.

"These brutal attacks on civilian life must be met with a response from our partners," Zelensky said.

Russia's defence ministry confirmed that drones had been used in operations against Ukrainian targets. According to the Interfax news agency, Moscow said its forces had struck military facilities, airfields and energy sites.

Other Regions Hit

Elsewhere in Ukraine, officials reported additional casualties.

Oleksandr Hanzha, head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration, said one person was killed and another injured during overnight attacks in the Nikopol district. He said Russian forces targeted the area roughly 20 times using drones, rockets and artillery.

In Zaporizhzhia, a separate strike injured a baby.

Meanwhile in the Kharkiv region city of Chuhuiv, mayor Halyna Minayeva said two people were wounded when a drone struck a house in the city centre.

Polish Jets Scrambled

In neighbouring Poland, the air force said it scrambled fighter jets to safeguard Polish airspace during the large-scale Russian strikes. Such precautionary deployments are routinely carried out when attacks occur close to NATO territory.

Rescue efforts are continuing in Kharkiv as authorities search for survivors and assess the full extent of the damage.

based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62662qzlp8o>

By Vitaly Shevchenko

Russia editor, BBC Monitoring

Robo-wars

Armed Ground Robots Enter the Battlefield in Ukraine

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion, the war in Ukraine has increasingly become a conflict shaped by advanced technology. Drones already dominate the skies, carrying out surveillance and strikes, while uncrewed naval vessels have damaged Russia's Black Sea fleet. Now Ukraine is rapidly expanding the use of armed robots on land.

These machines, known as uncrewed ground vehicles (UGVs), are being deployed for a growing range of battlefield roles. Ukrainian forces say the systems have already helped repel attacks and, in some cases, even forced Russian troops to surrender.

There are also reports that robotic systems from both sides have encountered each other

in combat zones with no soldiers present.

"Robot wars are already happening," says Major Oleksandr Afanasiev of Ukraine's K2 Brigade, who commands what he describes as the world's first dedicated UGV battalion. Robots on the Front Line

Some of the vehicles used by Afanasiev's unit are fitted with mounted machine guns, including Kalashnikov weapons.

"They can fire in places where a human soldier would be extremely vulnerable," he says. "A robot can take risks that would be unacceptable for a person."

The brigade has also deployed kamikaze-style ground drones carrying explosives, designed to drive into enemy positions and detonate.

Unlike aerial drones, which produce a distinctive buzzing sound, these ground vehicles approach almost silently, making them harder for defenders to detect.

Another Ukrainian officer, the deputy commander of a tank battalion in the 33rd Mechanised Brigade—known by the callsign "Afghan"—says the systems have already proved effective in combat.

He claims one UGV ambushed a Russian armoured personnel carrier, while another defended a Ukrainian position for weeks.

Human Control Still Required

Despite their advanced capabilities, the robots are not fully autonomous.

Modern UGVs can navigate terrain and identify potential targets, but the decision to fire a weapon still rests with a human operator. Commanders say this is both a technical limitation and an ethical requirement.

"Robots can misidentify targets or harm civilians," Afghan explains. "That's why the final decision must always be made by a human."

Most armed UGVs are therefore operated remotely, often from a safe location far from the front line via internet or radio links.

Expanding Roles

Ukraine's ground drones can be equipped with machine guns or grenade launchers, and they can also lay mines or deploy defensive obstacles such as barbed wire.

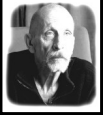
However, the majority of the country's uncrewed ground vehicles are still used for less dangerous tasks. Many deliver supplies to frontline positions or evacuate wounded soldiers from areas that are too exposed for medics to reach safely.

The Future of Robotic Warfare

Ukrainian military leaders believe robotic systems will soon play a much larger role in combat.

Valerii Zaluzhnyi, Ukraine's former commander-in-chief and now ambassador to the UK, recently told a defence audience in London that future battles could involve coordinated swarms of machines operating across multiple domains.

"In the near future we will see dozens or even hundreds of drones attacking simultaneously—from the air, ground and sea," he said during a talk at Chatham House.



Armed robots take to the battlefield in Ukraine war



Armed uncrewed ground vehicles (UGVs) are becoming ever more involved in the Ukraine war

Innovation Driven by Necessity

One reason for the rapid development of these systems is the increasing danger faced by soldiers on the front line.

The widespread use of aerial drones has dramatically expanded what Ukrainian commanders call the “kill zone”—areas within roughly 20 to 25 kilometres of the frontline where troops are constantly exposed to attack.

“Infantry remains essential,” says Major Afanasiev. “But it must be supported by robots. Ukraine can afford to lose machines; it cannot afford to lose trained soldiers.”

flamethrowers.

Russian forces have also deployed explosive “kamikaze” ground vehicles known as Lyagushka, or “Frog”.

As both sides increase their use of these machines, direct clashes between robotic systems may become more common.

“Robot Wars” Becoming Reality

Yuriy Poritsky, chief executive of the Ukrainian robotics company DevDroid, says encounters between opposing robotic systems are likely inevitable.

“Sooner or later our strike robots will meet their strike robots on the battlefield,” he says.



RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY

Russian soldiers with an explosives-laden Frog kamikaze UGV

Ukraine has struggled with manpower shortages as the war continues, making robotic systems even more attractive.

Russia Developing Its Own Systems

Russia is also developing combat ground drones.

One example reported in Russian media is the Kuryer, a robotic platform capable of operating for several hours and equipped with weapons such as heavy machine guns or

“It may sound like science fiction, but for us it’s simply the reality of modern war.”

Manufacturers are already working on systems that would allow drones to continue operating even if communication with their operators is lost, enabling them to complete missions and return to base autonomously.

Production is also expanding rapidly. One Ukrainian manufacturer, Tencore, produced more than 2,000 ground drones in 2025 and

expects demand to rise dramatically—possibly reaching tens of thousands of units annually.

Its director, Maksym Vasylychenko, believes armed robotic systems will soon become indispensable.

“Strike drones on the ground will be essential,” he says. “There’s no doubt about that.”

Looking further ahead, he suggests that combat robots may eventually evolve into machines that resemble human soldiers.

“At some point,” he says, “it won’t feel like science fiction anymore.”

based on <https://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/25916986.diddly-squat-farm-heartbreak-jeremy-clarkson/>

By Edward Burnett

More Diddly Squat Farm Worries for Jeremy Clarkson

Jeremy Clarkson has suggested there could be more difficult moments ahead at his Oxfordshire farm.

The former Top Gear and The Grand Tour presenter runs both Diddly Squat Farm and a nearby pub in the Cotswolds. Clarkson took over the farm in 2008 in Chadlington, while his pub, The Farmer’s Dog, opened in 2024 in Asthall near Burford.

Both locations feature prominently in the hit Prime Video documentary series Clarkson’s Farm, which first launched in 2021 and has since become a major success. After four popular seasons, the show is set to return for a fifth series later this year. Filming for the new episodes wrapped last September.

TB Outbreak at the Farm

One of the key storylines expected in the upcoming series is an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis at Diddly Squat.

The farm was affected by the disease in 2025, forcing Clarkson to isolate his herd of cattle. Bovine TB is a serious issue for many farmers across the UK. Under current rules, if cattle fail two consecutive tests, they must be removed from the herd and slaughtered to prevent the disease spreading.

The outbreak has already led to the loss of several animals on the farm.

Concern for a Beloved Donkey

More recently, Clarkson revealed that one of the farm’s donkeys is seriously ill, raising concern among fans.

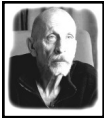
Earlier this month he introduced a new donkey to the farm called “New Ben”, sharing a photograph of the animal with followers on Instagram. The donkey is believed to have replaced a previous resident named Ben, who frequently appeared in Clarkson’s social media posts alongside another donkey, Bill.

It remains unclear whether the ill donkey Clarkson mentioned is the original Ben, but viewers will likely learn more when the new season airs.

“You Can’t Script Real Farming”

Speaking on the My Week in Cars podcast, Clarkson emphasised that the series captures genuine events rather than scripted drama.

“There’s no script for this show,” he said. “People sometimes say it’s staged, but things



The truth is here, not out

THE RAGGED-RAG

<http://ragged-rag.net>

based on <https://news.sky.com/story/pm-sitting-on-the-fence-over-iran-kemi-badenoch-claims-and-labour-is-no-longer-patriotic-13516331>

Jon Craig, Chief political correspondent.

Kemi Badenoch has delivered her sharpest criticism yet of the prime minister over the government's handling of the conflict involving Iran.

Speaking ahead of the Conservative spring conference in Harrogate, the Tory leader is expected to accuse Sir Keir Starmer of failing to show decisive leadership at a time of international tension.

Badenoch will argue that the prime minister is constrained by factions within his own party. She is set to claim he is effectively "a political hostage", influenced by a group of left-wing MPs whom she says do not appreciate the seriousness of the current global situation.

In her speech, Badenoch will suggest that Labour has lost the patriotic spirit it once claimed, accusing the party of approaching the crisis with the mindset of "student politics".

She will criticise the government for what she portrays as hesitation while other nations strengthen their military readiness.

"I never expected to see a moment when Britain's allies felt unable to depend on us," she will say. "This week they have described our country as weak and accused us of abandoning them, suggesting we have failed to show up when it matters."

Badenoch will also point to the UK's lack of immediate military deployment to reinforce bases in the Mediterranean. She plans to note that the United States, Greece and France have all sent naval vessels, while Britain's ship remains docked in Portsmouth, reportedly due to a union dispute.

Referencing past conflicts, she will acknowledge the controversies surrounding

the Iraq war but insist that hesitation should not replace clarity.

"Everyone remembers the mistakes made in Iraq," she will say. "No one is arguing that military action should be taken lightly.

"But while our allies quickly made clear where they stood, Keir Starmer spent days consulting lawyers before stating his position. "Even now he appears undecided about Britain's role. But whether the prime minister accepts it or not, we are already part of this conflict. The time has come for leadership."

Badenoch will go on to claim that Labour MPs are focused on internal political debates while other countries prepare for growing global threats.

"Across the world nations are rearming," she will say. "Yet many on the Labour benches are still treating this like a university debate."

Drawing a historical comparison, she will reference former Labour figure Aneurin Bevan, who warned during the 1950s that abandoning Britain's nuclear deterrent would leave the country dangerously exposed.

"Bevan once said removing Britain's nuclear weapons would send the country 'naked into the conference chamber'. Today we risk finding ourselves in that same position again," she will argue. Labour has strongly rejected Badenoch's comments. Armed forces minister Al Carns criticised the remarks as opportunistic and inappropriate given the seriousness of the situation.

"Attempting to make political capital from a complex and

dangerous security crisis is profoundly irresponsible," he said.

"This is a moment that demands careful, unified decision-making rather than exaggerated rhetoric.

"Our armed forces are performing their duties with dedication and professionalism. Their commitment should never be called into question.

"These are serious times that require responsible leadership, not attempts to score political points at the expense of the military, the civil service or Ministry of Defence staff who are working tirelessly."



(continued from prev. page)... like pigs dying or Gerard's cancer—you can't stage any of that."

He added that the team are currently hoping the sick donkey recovers.

"We've got a donkey that's

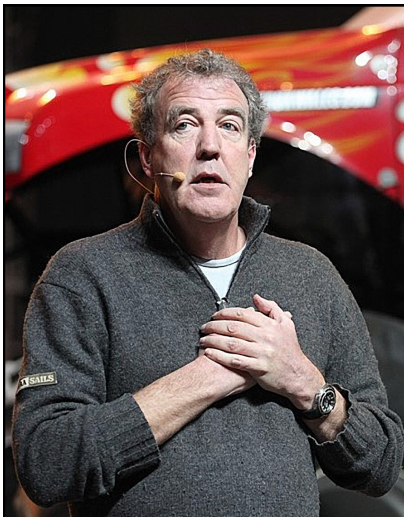
desperately ill at the moment and we're all keeping our fingers crossed," he said. "But you can't write a script saying it gets better, because you don't know what the donkey will do."

Clarkson also explained that filming the series often involves long periods of waiting for the weather to improve or for something to happen on the farm.

New Season Coming Soon
The fifth season of Clarkson's Farm is expected to be released in May, following the same schedule as previous seasons.

The new series will consist of eight

episodes and will once again follow Clarkson, farm manager Kaleb Cooper and the rest of the team as they deal with the unpredictable challenges of life at Diddy Squat Farm.



#52 - White mates in 2

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